

Hinsdale Conservation Commission – May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present Members: Carl Britt, Mike Carrier, Sharron Smith, Gordon Schofield, Nicki Ebbighausen

Community Members: Dwight Smith, Kevin & Bonnie Peters (from Winchester, NH)

Absent: Sarah Bomba (sick), TJ Such.

7:00pm Carl called meeting to order.

Gordon made a motion to accept April meeting minutes as read, seconded by Sharron. All in favor.

New Business:

- Attending tonight are Jim O'Brien and Charlie DeCurtis of The Nature Conservancy, and Barbara Skuly of ARLAC to discuss the Fiske Mill Dam project.
 - Main objective is to restore migration of fish up the Ashuelot River, all the way to Keene (154 miles of waterways)
 - Discussion included the process of removing the dam, concerns of wetlands damage, flooding and droughts, and how the removal of the dam will impact current river species.
 - Sharron will connect with Sheila at The Nature Conservancy to begin planning a public forum. TNC will bring an engineer to that event to discuss the process of removing the dam in more detail. Nicki will reach out to Sarah at the Community Center for potential use of the space for the public forum.

- Barbara Skuly of ARLAC mentioned mailing in a request for an annual donation. Carl stated that he has not received it yet. Nicki made a motion to make the \$125 donation, once Barbara emails a copy of the donation request. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. Barbara will email a copy to Nicki.

- Nicki presented an email from Teresa Chirichella, science teacher at Hinsdale High School, asking for the Commission's support in the following projects:
 - Teresa would like to bring a class down to the rail trail at the Connecticut River for trash pick up. They were there a few weeks ago and noticed a significant amount of trash. Nicki will reach out to the Town Hall for trash bags and to Bob Trusdell at the Highway Department to coordinate pickup.
 - The classes would also like to create signs to post on the trails regarding no littering, carry-in, carry-out procedures. Nicki will ask Teresa to email copies of the sign prior to being posted. Will ask to put HCC logo on signs.
 - Next school year, the Biology class would like to consider an inventory of the town's flora and fauna. Members mentioned that this was done years ago by Southwest Regional Planning, and that it is an intensive undertaking. Nicki will ask Teresa about reaching out to SWRP for guidance.

Old Business:

- Carl presented his completed letter to Alteration of Terrain Bureau that was discussed at last month's meeting. Mike made a motion to accept and send the letter as is with the addition of Gordon's name. Seconded by Sharron. All in favor.
- New A1/B2 wetland maps from New England Power Company distributed.
- Town Clean Up event on April 22nd, collected 140lbs of recycling and 460lbs of trash. Facebook contest had five entries, and Chris Meyers won the canvas tote bag and Dunkin gift card.

Gordon made motion to adjourn 8:17pm. Sharron 2nd. All in favor.