

*Hybrid meeting*  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2021

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Members Virtual: Bob Malbon, Chair; Chris Peel; Richard Pearson  
Members Present: Eric Williams; Vicki Emerson  
Members Absent: One Vacancy; Brian Jones  
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Milford Cushman, Friends of Green River Reservoir State Park; Mary Walz, Knot in Hyde Park Community Program; This meeting was recorded on GoToMeeting.

Bob opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

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1. **Welcome** – No changes to the agenda and no public comment.
2. **Knot in Hyde Park** – Mary Walz provided an overview of the new community-led program to manage knotweed in Hyde Park, which has the support of the Selectboard and highway department. Mary noted that her interest to lead this effort is in not seeing Hyde Park overrun with knotweed. The program coordinates volunteers to perform education and public outreach and has recently started to implement management practices on smaller patches along Cooper Hill Road. A larger patch along Black Farm Road will be the focus of a community education event on June 26 and June 27. Mary noted that a patch at the town office would also be a good public education site. Mary will be creating a map and database to monitor the progress and help in the assessment of best practices. Rich Pearson expressed interest in participating in the Knot in Hyde Park activities and Mary will connect with him after the meeting. Mary is considering an “Adopt a Knotweed Patch” program that volunteers would take responsibility for over the long term, as current practices such as regularly cutting and mowing without the use of herbicides, will take many years to eradicate a patch. The Commission thanked Mary for the information.
3. **North Hyde Park Planning Advance** – Ron reported that during the work on Municipal Planning Grant MPG20, the NHP Main Street Study, the need to explore wastewater treatment options in North Hyde Park was identified. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard approved submission of a State Planning Advance application to seek funds for a wastewater and water system analysis with those funds being a loan that does not need to be paid back if construction doesn’t move forward. Ron estimated the planning advance amount to be in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range, noting this is a long-term project to focus on revitalization of North Hyde Park and not much would happen this year. A new wastewater treatment system could cost in the \$2-3 million range with construction in the 10-year timeframe.
4. **Zoning Regulation Revisions 2021** – Milford provided a summary of his discussion with regional planning staff, Seth Jensen and Alec Jones, regarding moving some of the permit reviews to an administrative process to allow landowners to avoid the cost and time of a Development Review Board public hearing process. Eric stated he was concerned that moving away from the DRB would mean more authority is in one town official. Milford stated that the regional planners felt that with the prescriptive guidance available to landowners and the zoning regulations that are well-written, an administrative review process is possible, and it would be easier for applicants. Milford stated that his company would pursue LiDAR mapping technology to help the town update the current zoning overlay map, making it easier to administer, noting that the regional planning office is not able to assist with this map update at the current time. The Commission thanked Milford for continuing to assist in the bylaw update. Bob noted that he will continue to work on firewood processing regulations. Eric offered some suggestions for updating the firewood processing regulations, such as prohibiting processing if five or more homes are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed processing site; if less than five homes, then a permit would be required, but the applicant would need to operate in normal business hours, have a maximum noise level during operations (for saws, trucks, loading) and written notice to all landowners so they can participate in a public hearing. Eric suggested an exemption for individuals and families up to 20 cords per year being processed on a parcel with no retail sales.

- 1 5. **Minutes:** Motion by Eric to accept the 05/10/2021 minutes, as written. Seconded by Chris. Voting: 5  
2 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 3 6. **Other Business** – Eric noted that road graders can pick up knotweed and spread it down the road,  
4 so highway crew members should be aware of that risk. Chris Peel asked about volunteers to assist  
5 the regional planning office in conducting counts and monitoring of visitors to the Green River  
6 Reservoir. Ron will connect with Seth Jensen at LCPC on the needs and process of scheduling  
7 volunteers to assist in the GRRR project which is funded under MPG21.
- 8 7. **Adjourn** - Motion by Vicki to adjourn, seconded by Eric, so voted at 6:50 p.m.
- 9 Respectfully submitted by Ron Rodjenski