

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

June 16, 2026 Meeting

Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

6/16/2026 Minutes – DRAFT

Present: Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Bonnie Christie, Molly Hardenbergh, Katherine Mitchell, Scott Clay, Bob LaPree

Visitors: Karen Robertson – Planning Director. Dijit Taylor – Chair OSC

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ron Klemarczyk, Chair.

1. Natural Resources Chapter of the town's Master Plan: Karen Robertson said that a community survey must be part of the Natural Resources chapter and presented draft questions to be included in the survey. The target is to have about ten questions in the survey. The questions were reviewed and discussed, and Karen will circulate the revised questions to HCC members before finalizing them.

At 7:35 Karen left the meeting.

Rob made a motion, seconded by Bob, to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 II (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote was unanimous in favor. The Committee adjourned to non-public session at 7:36 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:03 PM. Rob made a motion, seconded by Bob, to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

2. HCC minutes for May 19, 2026 were accepted.
3. HCC mail: No mail received.
4. Treasurer's report: Katherine reported \$5,039 in the Town Forest account and \$190,185 in the Conservation account (which is now in a CD) as of June 15. The Conservation account will be debited \$430 when the account is reconciled, so we have \$189,755 in unencumbered funds.
5. Brockway Preserve bridge across the dam: The Dam Bureau notified Ron that they cannot approve a new bridge until they model impact on the road downstream if the dam was breached. Ron has not heard back from them as yet.
6. Karen's Woods footbridges: Ron still needs to look at the bridge locations. The proposed new trail at Karen's Woods needs some rerouting. Ron will identify where it crosses Martin/Town/Pellerin properties. Pellerin will be asked for permission for the trail to cross his property.
7. S&M Forest Trust subdivision on Jewett Road – Bruce Stockwell: Nothing new to report.
8. Dustin Woods trails: Rob reported that work on the new trail system started April 9 and was completed, including signage, in time for a public hike on National Trails Day June 6. The work on the trails and woods roads was done by Rob, Scott and three other volunteers. The hike was a 3.5 mile loop and started at Bohanan Farm parking area. Ron will be working on a new trailhead and parking area at Dustin Woods.

Rob submitted a request for reimbursement of \$253.85 for the signs and sign posts at Dustin Woods. Bob moved to approve the request, Molly seconded it, and it passed unanimously with Rob abstaining.

9. Trails Committee: Rob reported the committee met on May 27, and there was a good turnout with many new faces. A trail connection between the two villages is again being investigated to see if it is feasible.
10. Karen's Woods benches: Dave Dufault obtained two benches and Ron installed them on the Karen's Woods trails.
11. Land swap: Chuck Rose is interested in the 12-acre Burnham Intervale Town Forest which is landlocked and surrounded on three sides by parcels owned by Chuck Rose. Chuck would like to swap a 21-acre parcel he owns between Thain and Barton Corner Roads for the Burnham Intervale parcel. Chuck's parcel has no real road access. The HCC should know how the two lots appraise compared to each other. The Burnham Intervale Town Forest has more timber value.
12. Boundary line adjustment between the town's Kimball Lake property 251-008-001 and Robert and Josie Smetana's abutting property: Currently the town property includes much of the Smetana's lawn and is close to their swimming pool. The Smetanas' property extends behind the cemetery. Rob would like to explore doing a boundary line adjustment to improve both lots.
13. Transfer Station fencing: Nothing new.
14. Legislative update: Bonnie reported the legislative session is over.
15. Commission membership: Ron will check to see if Scott has been made a regular member. The HCC needs some alternate members.
16. Planning board – Conservation Subdivisions: Molly continues to think about how the town's Conservation Subdivision regulations could be improved. Hopkins Green seems like a great conservation subdivision but it would not be allowed under our current regulations. Ideally, conservation subdivisions would be centered on a new road and include large, contiguous open space. However, new roads are expensive.
17. "Turtle Crossing" signs: Scott has obtained two "Turtle Crossing" sign for Bound Tree Road at Hardy Brook, where many turtles cross in the spring. He can get additional signs for \$10 each and they could be put up in the spring and taken down at the end of July. We could ask people to suggest locations where turtles cross, and provide signs for suggested locations. Rob moved that the HCC authorize Scott to buy ten "Turtle Crossing" signs, Bob seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Bob moved that Ron talk to the Town Administrator about putting the signs in road rights-of-way, Katherine seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. There will be no July meeting. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on August 18, 2026 at the Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Robert Knight, Secretary.