

**MINUTES OF PLANNING BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 2017**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Hope Town Office**

**Board Members Present:**

- John Fallows, Lewis Merrifield, Robert Hall, Jessica Snyder & Langley Willauer

**Others Present:**

- Samantha Mank, Bobbi Oxton, David Hall (HFPA, Pres.), Julie Jones (HFPA, Treas.), Ronald Kreisman (HFPA, Attorney), Jeff Connon (HFPA, Vice Pres. Via SKYPE), Sydney Hall, Mary Ireland, Tom Ford & Wendy Pelletier

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by John Fallows.

**New Business:**

- **Application of Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association Shoreland Zoning review to repair the existing Hobbs Pond Dam:** John Fallows stated that he needed the board to take a vote on whether he should recuse himself as he lives on the “pond”. Jessica made a motion that John Fallows NOT recuse himself from the Planning Board meeting and to continue with hearing and deciding the matter of the HFPA Shoreland Zoning application. Robert seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 4-0-1**

David gave a historical account of the Hobbs Pond Dam starting in the 1950’s including the removal of the dam in 1987 by Wayne Smith, it’s reconstruction in 1991 and the inadvertent partial removal of the dam in April 2016 by Road Commissioner, John Monroe. “HFPA simply seeks permitting approval from the Planning Board to re-establish the long-standing, historic water level at Hobbs Pond by repairing the damage that was done to the dam on April 26, 2016. He had several photos documenting his statement. He presented diagrams of repair project which he said falls within the DEP guidelines and specifications. David estimated that it would take approximately one day to rebuild the dam. The intent is to restore the water flow and levels to the historic levels. Since the HFPA is the registered owner they will maintain the dam and be responsible for it. David wants to have good communication with the Town and IF&W to ensure the roads are protected and everyone is in compliance with how to handle active beaver dams. The Planning Board wanted to know about any safety concerns and if there will be effects to Fish Pond. Fish Pond depends on Hobbs Pond for water. “The dam has worked well for both ponds for the past 25 years” according to David. Julie reiterated that “we just want to stabilize the water level”. David told the Planning Board that the HFPA will do water testing 2-3 times each year at their own expense and plans to continue to do the testing. David doesn’t see any personal safety issues. The only danger that he could think of would be caused by the beavers, but he doesn’t believe that any of the camps on the pond should the water levels rise because it would continue to spill over the dam and flow into Fish Pond or flow out of the northern outlet to Megunticook Lake. Lewis stated that he would feel better if this was not a do it yourself project. He would like someone with at least some kind of construction back ground to be consulted. He also thinks that whoever constructs/repairs the dam should be insured so that the Town is not liable or responsible for any injury or damage to property that happens because the HFPA decided to build the dam themselves. Lewis is also wanted to have an engineer look at the designs and make sure that the structure (dam) will do what the HFPA claims it will do. The attorney said

that the HFPA is paying for all of the expenses up until now even though this was the Town's mistake. So, requiring the professional engineer before and after the project will cause a financial hardship.

Motion by Langley to approve the application with three conditions:

1. A professional engineer affirms to CEO that the design will restore water to historic levels consistent with DEP requirements.
2. Professional engineer certifies to the CEO that the dam is built to design specifications.
3. That the 1989 Book/Page for property easements are correct in deeds.

Jessica seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Minutes:**

- The minutes from the October 4, 2016 meeting were not accepted as written. Minutes will be re-written, re-read and subject to approval at next Planning Board meeting

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Election of a Co-Chair:** John told the board that Jim Owens had resigned from the Planning Board and that a new Co-Chair needed to be elected. Lewis made a motion to nominate Robert for the position. Jessica seconded it. Robert respectfully declined the nomination and asked to remain as the Board Secretary. The motion was rescinded. Jessica made a motion to nominate Langley to be Co-Chair. Robert seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0**

**Adjourn:**

- John made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Langley seconded the motion.  
**Motion Passes 5-0.**