

On December 8th the application to renew my voluntary membership with the Hudson Conservation Commission was scheduled with the Hudson board of Selectmen. I was hopeful that I could continue my volunteering services on this commission for another two years.

During that meeting, Mrs. Roy was gracious enough to initiate a motion to re-instate my membership for 2021-2022. Unfortunately, no other board members seconded the motion and thus my application was dismissed. As such, my membership with this commission will expire at the end of the year.

With that being said, I would like to take this time to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve this community and its residents to the best of my ability. I'd like to say that we had a great run together.

- We have maintained some great trails on beautiful town properties
- We have conducted a successful selective logging operation after a 20 year hiatus,
- We have professionally marked new and old trails to ease resident's exploration of our properties.
- We were able to acquire a great collection of power tools to make our job and the future job of the commission easier
- We had experts come in to train us on the Right To Know rules, Conservation authorities, state wetland regulations and best practices for land conservation efforts
- We completed numerous "clean up days" partnering with the Hudson Sustainability committee
- We partnered with NRPC to update our conservation maps around town
- And most recently we purchased the aeration system for Bensons park pond

On top of all that, the commission is currently working to

- Draft new plans for the utilization of Merrill park in hopes of a professional boat launch
- Complete a new upgraded parking lot for the Musquash Conservation Area
- And hopefully purchase more land to protect under conservation easements

I personally take great pride in the commission passing a successful warrant article to increase the portion of the Current Use Change Tax into the conservation fund from 50% to 75% (at no cost to the residents)

I am also very proud to have been part of the designation of Rangers Drive Town Forest and its most recent warrant article expansion. This effort will solidify state protections on land directly within the circumferential right of way.

Furthermore, I hope this commission continues the work I started on the Open Space Sub Committee reaching out to landowners and protecting lands for generations to come. There is absolutely no better accomplishment in life than knowing you had an impact on the environment for future generations.

Throughout my years with the commission I have had the pleasure to meet some great friends, both here on the commission and while walking in the woods with residents. I am extremely grateful for those who have reached out to me, supported me and publicly defended me in a very difficult personal year.

On the other hand, I have also been disrespected and sabotaged by some I would have never even imagined. My conservation efforts have foiled, my name slandered, my life put out to dry. But I am not the kind of person to dwell on the negative.

I have had a great learning experience during my time here and I will use that knowledge to push forward with other initiatives such as the grass roots effort around Hudson Alliance for Responsible Development. With a previous member of this commission; Jennifer Parkhurst and I, will continue to be the voice of conservation minded individuals in this town and this region. We promise to keep working, keep volunteering and keep being the leaders this town is proud of us for.

Protecting our environment is of the utmost importance. The detrimental impact that humans have on this earth is the only issue in which all other issues are derived from.

With that, please remember my name and this speech when you vote for your next Selectmen in March of 2021.