

Hooper Institute Committee meeting: January 8, 2019

Present: Eloise Clark, Karen Galloway, Marcia Galloway, Holly Gowdy, Cheryl Mayberry—
Selectboard Rep., Rebecca Sethi, Rebecca Whippie

Friends of Hooper Institute: Eloise has arranged for the VT Institute of Natural Science to bring their raptor show during “Screen Free” week at the WES. The date is Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 PM. FoHI is prepared to make a donation to the HI money market fund for the 2018 High School Summer Program. However, they need a bill from the town for \$5,000 so the funds can be properly accounted for.

Hooper woodlot: The Conservation Commission hired a forester from Long View Forest Management to cruise the Hooper woodlot and conduct an inventory of tree communities with suggestions for a management plan. Eloise will forward the report to the HC for their perusal. In the past, proceeds from any timber cuts have been added to the HI Education Trust.

2018 spending review: Total spending was \$65,779. Most line items were below budget except for program support (about 25% over) and sewer user charges. These have skyrocketed because of the bond charge payment for upgrades to the Bellows Fall Wastewater Treatment plant. Cheryl explains they are \$90 per quarter or \$360 per year. The balance of \$327 is for water use, most of which goes to the Community Garden for watering.

Trusts have merged: Officially the Education and Scholarship trusts have merged with a net worth of nearly \$3 million. As of the end of November, the combined trust has generated about \$18,000 in income. Unfortunately the new format no longer has a column estimating projected income. Karen explains this was done by Cambridge Trust to align with current accounting standards. Karen also cautions that the town is still owed money for expenditures that have not been billed to the Hooper Trust. There are items for maintenance as well as some monthly education expenses. She is ready to disperse scholarship money soon for the second semester to college recipients.

Review autumn 2018 school programs: Becky and Eloise’s school programs are well received by the HC. Reports are on file at the HI.

Trustees of the Hooper Trust: Hooper Committee members have been following the minutes of THT meetings that have been posted. Eloise is curious about the golf course request for a high school student next summer. THT have reviewed a job description supplied by the golf course manager. They have sent the description to the NH Dept. of Labor for their opinion. There is concern about the use of machinery and poisonous chemicals by underage youth. Does turf management fit with the Hooper goals? Is there any effort to use organic practices?

The NH Charitable Neilsen fund donates money to the Friends of the Hooper Institute and not directly to the Hooper Trust. Cheryl said the THT would like to see the Bylaws reviewed to see if they are current. Eloise will send a copy to HC members to review before the next meeting. Does the scholarship committee have its own set of bylaws?

Hooper futures: the HC commits to enlarging the group. We have lost members this past year. Eloise will contact individuals mentioned at the meeting and invite them to attend our next meeting February 12th.

Eloise will be retiring in 2019. She plans to finish the school year and run the camps. The rest of the summer is fluid depending upon who is hired and their schedule. Eloise will not return to the classroom next fall. She feels the sale of the golf course had to be accomplished before she stepped down so the Institute was on firmer financial footing for a new Director. We had a very good process when we found and hired Rebecca Whippie in 2001 and Eloise would like to see that template followed. We do have time to “get organized” for the search.

Submitted by,

Eloise Clark

Director & Secretary