

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday October 21, 2020, 6:30PM
Hampton Town Hall Gazebo
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Secretary Penny Newbury, since the Chair (Mark Samios) was absent. Members present: Marcia Kilpatrick, Stan Crawford (seated for Mark Samios), Pat Cascio, Karen Hamilton. Also absent: Ev Hyde.

Audience for Citizens: none.

Motion made and seconded (Marcia, Pat) to approve minutes of September 16, 2020 with the amendment from Marcia that she (not Penny) made the motion to nominate Mark Samios to be Chair. Approved unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda: none.

Old Business

Membership:

Two residents have voiced their interest in becoming members, but neither has been appointed by the First Selectman yet or taken the oath of office. Both will be informed by members that if they'd like to be on the Commission they will have to take the necessary steps. Marcia said that one of these residents will try to be at the next meeting. Penny will send a copy of these minutes to the resident whose email she has.

Hiking Brochure

Penny reported that Bob had given her a pdf of the current brochure but it doesn't have photos. The brochure that is on the town website was never downloaded correctly and viewers can't see 1/3 of it because it is printed on legal paper and the pdf is only letter sized for some reason. Penny will create a new draft of the brochure for review next month that includes the following properties: Blue Flag Meadow, Rad Ostby Memorial Forest, Preston Preserve, Jericho Road, Cohantic ledges, Trail Wood, Airline Trail, Edwards Preserve, Pudding Hill Preserve, and the Hammond Hill property. Members were encouraged to take new photos of these locations and develop copy for Pudding Hill Preserve, Edwards Preserve, and Hammond Hill.

Mapping review, Open Space Prioritization List, and next steps: Tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Communications: UConn Invasive Plant conference: Marcia gave an overview of the conference and its highlights, and she will write up a report for the *Gazette*. She emphasized the work of the CT Invasive Plant Working group (CIPWIG-UConn.edu) and

spoke about the themes of the conference: sustainable response, maintaining native habitats, education, birds that use specific native plants, and ways to remove invasives. Possible projects that deal with invasives in Hampton were discussed, notably an identification and removal of Japanese knotweed from Hampton roadsides. Discussion followed regarding their removal, which is a 3-year process at least, and the methods involved.

Marcia will lead a subcommittee that is charged with finding partners (schools, scouts etc) and developing a plan that would start in the spring. She will also draft a proposal that would be presented to the Selectmen in late winter/early spring. In the meantime, members were encouraged to compile an "inventory" of knotweed in town; Pat volunteered to be on the committee and stated she could put a notice in the Facebook Neighborhood Watch group to ask residents to notify the HCC of roadside knotweed in their area.

Invasive Plant of the Month: Penny will do a poster for next month (phragmites was the chosen villain).

Name for Hammond Hill: Members suggested naming the new property the Hammond Hill Little River Preserve, and will discuss this at the next meeting with members who were not here this evening.

Next meeting: November 18, 6:30, at a location TBD, but most likely in the Town hall due to changing temperatures..

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary