

**Hampton Conservation Commission**  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday December 21, 2022 6:30 PM  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
MINUTES

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Bruce Spaman, Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury, Karen Hamilton, Ev Hyde. Marc Cardwell. Audience member present: John Tillinghast, Selectman.

**Audience for citizens:** None

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** (November 23, 2022): Motion made and seconded Ev/Penny) to approve the minutes. Approved.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Commission member numbers; regular members and alternates

**Old Business**

**Hammond Hill Property**

Neither the First Selectman nor Kevin Grindle (representing Barton and Loguidice consultants) could attend, so a discussion followed re: the plans that HCC needed to develop regarding the use of the property, the potential DEEP Trails grant (due April 2023), and the activities necessary to complete the several projects that would either be funded by the grant or the 2023/24 budget request.

Highlights of the discussion included

- The need for both identifying and interpretive signage
- Proposed trails, parking area, and accessible fishing area
- Ability to obtain in-kind labor to support the grant
- The need for wetlands approval
- The name of the property (tentatively Little River Preserve; the identifying sign 's second line would read "Hampton Conservation Area.")

Marc and Bruce will apply for a wetlands permit and meet with the Wetlands Agent to walk the property and review the plan to determine whether a full application/permit is necessary.

Mark will schedule a special meeting with Kevin Grindle during the first week of January (preferably January 4 at 6:30pm) to review the plan, request/clarify the scope of his assistance, and finalize the entire plan, regardless of whether grant funds are obtained or not.

Marc will meet with the Boy Scouts within the next two weeks to look at the property and discuss a plan for trail maintenance at least once per year.

**Motion was made and seconded** (Marc/Ev) to spend \$1,600 of the HCC's current budget, pending wetlands approval, to conduct trail clearing that was proposed during the site walk. The \$1,600 estimate was for a full day's work; if time permits, the contractor will move to the Cohantic Trail and remove fallen logs from the trail.

**Pollinator Pathways— Marcia Kilpatrick**

Marcia suggested that \$200 of HCC funds be donated to the Library for their pollinator program in the spring, which will entail speaker fees. Members agreed. There was some discussion about bringing native plants to the presentation for either demonstration or sale; that idea was rejected.

## **New Business**

### **CIPIWIG Conference – Marcia Kilpatrick**

Marcia gave an overview of the conference on invasive species, including two presentations: how deer spread invasives, and how knotweed will not be eradicated in CT, only maintained by regular cutting/removal.

### **Hiking Brochure—Mark Samios**

Mark explained that the \$1,000 he was going to request in next year's budget was to create a hard copy brochure to be available at all public venues around Hampton, to entice visitors, improve the HCC's visibility, and demonstrate our commitment to be part of the trails system throughout the region. Discussion followed regarding printing prices as well as the need to have an interactive copy of the brochure online—both online and print copies would need to be easily updateable. John Tillinghast will send Penny the contact information for the Town's webmaster to find out the cost of placing the brochure appropriately and with links on the Town website. Mark will find out if the brochure can be easily copied on the Town's copier as opposed to taking it to Staples.

### **Budget Request for 2023/24—Mark Samios**

Mark presented a draft budget of items and services the HCC would need for the next fiscal year. Line items included site work/parking lot expansion at the Little River Preserve, signage for three Town-owned trails, clearing work at the three trails, conference attendance, etc. The budget will be updated and approved at a later date.

### **Annual Report**

Mark will collect all the information from members, collate it and send it to Penny to edit and send to members for review. Final copy to Selectmen by mid-January.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

There was discussion regarding the change from a 9-member Commission to a 7-member commission, which has resulted in one additional alternate. Since Stan has been a "floating" member, Mark will ask him if he is amenable to resigning to bring the number to 5 regular members and two alternates. Stan will continue to volunteer with the HCC and be included in all correspondence as before.

Current members: Mark Samios, Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Marcia Kilpatrick, Bruce Spaman. Alternates: Karen Hamilton, Marc Cardwell.

### **Audience for Citizens: none**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury, Secretary