

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 19, 2023 6:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room
MINUTES

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury, Karen Hamilton, Ev Hyde. Absent: Marc Cardwell, Bruce Spaman. Audience members present: Stan Crawford, John Tillinghast, Kathy Thompson, Selectman, Kevin Grindle, and others.

Audience for citizens: Kevin notified the group that the DEEP grant notifications were coming out soon. He also said that DEEP will most likely be replicating this grant program and is looking for projects that connect trails to existing trails. He recommended we investigate Parker Road for this purpose (and also b/c it is adjacent to the Pudding Hill preserve, and trails could be developed there as part of the project). Discussion followed re: road prioritization, legal procedures, rights of property owners, and next steps. Funding will be needed for surveyors' research (from previous surveys of Parker Rd), some of town attorney's time, etc. but we can apply these costs to next year's grant. Ev and Kevin will continue to research this; Mark will bring the matter to the Selectmen at their next meeting (5/6/23).

John volunteered to find out where all the HCC documents went that were in the closet in the meeting room. They will be needed in the road research.

Ev mentioned that there was a bill this year to include an environmental rights amendment to the state constitution (didn't get voted out of committee this year).

Approval of Minutes of March 14

Motion made and seconded (Ev/Karen) to approve the minutes of 3/14/23. Approved.

Additions to the Agenda

Membership numbers

Old Business

Status of Little River preserve Grant

Partially discussed in Audience for Citizens.

Stan asked members to consider doing a guided walk after the Marine Ceremony on Memorial Day.

Members discussed developing a "portfolio of projects" with specific requirements, in order for the Scouts to choose which ones they'd like to take on:

- Bird blinds (Marcia will give info to Mark who will pass to John for Scouts)
- Bench at each end of preserve and near pond (Kathy Thompson volunteered to donate a stone slab of her brother Randy's to use as one of the benches)
- Kiosk (using Stan's Goodwin blueprint and materials list)
- Nature trail in woods near the far corner, with plant and tree ID
- Picnic table was discussed
- Footbridges to entrances to the river

General Signage

Bruce, Mark and John have volunteered to make signs.

Ev will take a trail marker to Signs Plus to get it enlarged and see how it looks, for use at beginning of trails.

Stan requested drawing of sign for Cohantic Ledges Trail; it will be paid for out of this year's budget.

Arbor Day

Bruce had handed our flyers before he had to leave; it's 4/28 at 9:30 am at the elementary school. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Bruce was commended for all his hard work on this project.

Pollinator Pathway Event

Marcia gave an overview of the event's progress. It's on 4/29 at 10am at the Library. She expressed concern that HCC was not mentioned as a sponsor.

New Business**Membership**

Discussion re: returning to 9 members. Some members felt that this was still in the Town Ordinances and that the HCC had never officially been reduced to 5 members and 2 alternates. Mark will research this and notify the group, who discussed returning to the original 9-member group, since the HCC has been more active lately, with many projects. The only downside is obtaining a quorum may be more difficult.

Submission of Agenda Items

Mark requested that with submitted agenda items there is a paragraph explaining why the item is requested, so members get a chance to review before the meeting.

Communications

Penny will be attending the Last Green Valley's Annual meeting on May 25th and will report back.

Marcia passed around a baggie full of Lesser Celadine (voted one of Ecosystem Gardening's "Most hated Plants,") and we all cringed in horror.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury

Secretary