

## **Hampton Conservation Commission**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday July 20, 2022 6:30 PM

Town Hall Pavilion

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Marcia Kilpatrick, Bruce Spaman, Penny Newbury, Karen Hamilton, Ev Hyde. Absent: Stan Crawford.

Audience members present: Mark Cardwell.

**Seating of Alternates:** none

**Audience for citizens:** none

Motion Made (Staman/Samios) to approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (June 15, 2022). Approved with correction to remove Pat Cascio from the list as a member at the last meeting.

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

DEEP Land Acquisition

Priority property information

Wild ones conference

### **Old Business**

**Knotweed Project** – Marcia Kilpatrick: Second cutting will be August 6 at 9am. People urged to go to Parker Rd and do that, as it has been done regularly since the beginning of the project. Marcia will ask her list of previous volunteers to participate., with note that they can do it at any time—doesn't have to be exactly that day/time. She will also ask that the road crew not cut the knotweed at odd times, as the mower spreads the cuttings and the plants reseed. Penny will put notice about 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting in the *Gazette*.

**Pollinator Pathways**– Marcia Kilpatrick: Marcia urged group to sign up to be on the database. Discussion re: having someone from the E CT Beekeepers Association or Prides Corner Farm come give a talk on pollinators. Marcia will contact the Friends of the Library to coordinate or provide contact for Beekeepers. She will call Prides to see if they have speakers.

**Hammond Hill Property** - Bruce Spaman presented a proposal based on his outline that we develop a 5-10 year plan with a budget that includes an inventory of species, goal for the property, and action steps. Marca will contact the CT Botanical Society so see if they can do a plant inventory. Bruce will reach out to the DEEP rep for his report that was promised at the site walk, and ask for the names of other experts (wildlife, fish, etc.). Discussion followed re: the Selectmen's promise to increase the parking area; it was agreed that this was one of the first things that had to happen before we start to do outreach about the property and hold tours, etc. Mark from the audience (who was at the site walk representing Trout Unlimited) suggested we create a draft plan first, that just dealt with the first 1-2 years of developing the property.

Penny will put a notice in the *Gazette* asking for stories from people remembering the property and pond and what activities were done there over the years. Ides is to get community engaged in learning more about it and visiting it.

Discussion re signage, for which the HCC has money in the budget. Also discussed the potential name of the property, and based on its proposed recreational use, suggested the word "Preserve" not be used, but "little River" be included. One suggestion: Little River Meadow, like Blue Flag Meadow in the north. Also discussed was plan to include Randy Thompson's name in either the name or dedication.

Decision was made to have all members work on their version of a vision statement for the property, to share at the next meeting.

Discussion re the need to clearly identify the use of the property. A public tour was suggested to coincide with the Fall Festival, and Bruce will check to see if that is okay with the organizers. By that time the proposed vision statement should be completed, to share with the public and get their input.

## **New Business**

**DEEP land acquisition grant** is due 9/21/22 so no time to apply this year, but we should start to work on the 2023 application if we have a piece of property we are interested in for either purchase or purchase of an easement.

**Priority Property**—Penny advised the group of a significant tract that the HCC had previously considered, which may become available in the near future. Mark will speak to the First Selectman about it to see if the Town is still interested as well.

**Old Roads:** Ev let the group know he is working with Angela Fichter on the roads project; it will be helpful to see the project from an attorney's perspective.

**Wild Ones Presentation**—Marcia went to the Cohen Preserve in Colchester (possible Town-owned) to see their pollinator garden and knotweed project. She reported that Hampton's knotweed eradication plan is more successful due to better planning, consistency and timing.

**Communications:** None

**Audience for Citizens:** None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Penny Newbury  
Secretary