

Hampton Conservation Commission
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Bob Johnson. Members present. Everett Hyde, Penny Newbury. Alternate Present: Stan Crawford. Absent: Pat Cascio, Marcia Kilpatrick.

Stan Crawford was seated for Marcia Kilpatrick.

Audience for Citizens: None

Additions to the Agenda

Review of Annual Report text

Budget Proposal

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of October 16, 2019

(Hyde/Crawford) moved to approve minutes. Motion carried. No minutes taken in November; December meeting cancelled.

Reports from Commissions/Committees

Stan reported that DEEP announced at the Friends of Goodwin meeting that both the Natchaug and Goodwin Forest trails will be closed due to logging. In Goodwin the estimate is until June; Natchaug is already closed and the length is unknown. Reasons: elimination of ash trees in Natchaug, safety issues in both forests, removal of blighted trees.

Stan reported that IWCC conducted a site walk at Stone Ridge who has proposed additional carriage trails and wetlands crossings, including a proposed bridge. Discussion followed regarding the importance of HCC to be involved in these discussions, as increased and multiple development requests from Stone Ridge are negatively impacting the property. Next IWCC meeting is 2/13 at 7pm; HCC members encouraged to attend and ask for map of plans that includes parcel abutters. Discussion followed regarding the subdivision principle, which states that a percentage of developed property (location chosen by HCC) should be preserved. Even though there has not been a split, members felt that owners should honor the principle of this regulation with regard to this property; with further disruption and encroachment, the entire property will retain none of the features that were designed to be protected in the original development agreement.

Ev reported that the Green Energy Committee is working with the Town to achieve a goal of 100% clean energy. The Committee is presenting a series of films on conservation, climate change, etc. It is also trying to determine the energy savings obtained through the solar array at Town Hall.

Old Business

Annual Report Finalization: Ev proposed additional language to include HCC's participation with P&Z in conservation subdivisions, where HCC recommends the portion of the property to be set aside for open space. Wording added; report to be sent to Admin. Assistant 1/16.

Invasive of the Month poster: Stan will give copies (Wineberry) to Donna to post at Town Hall.

Mapping: Penny presented a large parcel map on which roads were labeled. Members felt that we needed even more information in order to begin an open space priority inventory. Stan will ask Al Cahill or P&Z to print a map on the plotter based on a NECCOG GIS map with the following layers: street names, water bodies and watercourses (with names), property ID, buildings, and topo lines. Bob will work with Pat Cascio to complete the easement ID list, first obtaining the plat # for the list and then transferring this information to the large map, so the HCC will know where all easements in town are. (Discussion as to whether to note very small easements, such as for a small power line.) Bob will ask Marcia to provide a list of all Joshua's Trust Easements with addresses and other identifying info where possible. **Still needed is a list of properties that are preserved:** When all this information is placed on the map and appropriately colored in or coded, we will have a baseline from which to begin to develop a list of future priorities.

Developing this list, and placing all gathered information on the map will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Stan will get the Wi-Fi password to have access to the GIS information should be need it; Penny will bring a laptop.

New Business

Budget Proposal for 2020: Stan reported that HCC needs to submit its budget to the Treasurer and Board of Finance as soon as possible. Bob will draft a spreadsheet with specific line items, to include funds for additional hiking brochure (2 printings), conferences, HCC's portion of newsletter subscriptions from state and regional conservation and forestry agencies, etc. Bob will also ask the Board of Finance about the status of the Open Space fund and request that it be kept as a line item for discussion when the BoF begins to review the budget.

Next Meeting: February 19, 2020

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary