

Hampton Conservation Commission
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chair Bob Johnson. Members present: Marcia Kilpatrick, Ev Hyde, Stan Crawford (alternate), Pat Cascio (alternate), Penny Newbury.

New member: Mark Santois, recently appointed by Alan Cahill.

First Selectman Alan Cahill was also present for the first 30 minutes ("Just visiting"); he was asked to change Mar's status from "alternate" to "member," and will take the oath of office this week.

Audience for Citizens: None

Additions to the Agenda:

- StoneHurst hearing
- pollinator field pamphlet
- tree project
- invasive plant suggestion
- ordering the *Habitat*
- Land sale in Hampton

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 15, 2020: (Johnson/Hyde) moved to approve minutes, with the following corrections:

Under "Reports from Commissions:" 2nd paragraph, 1st line, change IWCC to IWWA; 3rd line, change "important" to "importance." 4th line: change Stone Ridge to StoneHurst. 7th line should read "Even though there has not been a split, **some** members felt that the owners should honor . . ." (highlighted word added). Approved (Kilpatrick abstaining).

Old Business

Reports from Commissions:

IWWA: Discussion re: the March 3, 2020 7pm hearing re: proposed development at StoneHurst. Members were encouraged to attend; if they wish to comment on the plan, however, they must do so as private citizens.

Invasive poster: Stan will give the new one (garlic mustard) to Donna to post at Town hall. Next invasive, suggested by Marcia: pigweed. Brief discussion of possible calendar created from all the posters, done in conjunction with the Seniors.

Pollinator brochure: Bob asked Marcia to come up with some ideas and text.

Mapping: Stan presented the new maps that include GIS information, street names, etc. Discussion regarding setting up a plan for next steps.

1. Mark will contact NECCOG to get the categories that their mapping uses, as well as their corresponding colors, so that when we begin to identify our open space areas they

are done with the same categories and color coding. He will share this with the group before the next meeting.

2. Bob will post a notice for a special meeting Tuesday March 10 at 6:30, where those members who want to participate will transfer information from our current open space inventory map to the new, larger map, assigning categories and colors as appropriate. New additions will also be included, per the inventory report that Stan and Pat developed.

HCC's currently include: state property, federally owned property, Land trusts, farmland preservation, "private" landowning groups (eg Audubon), a variety of easements, etc. We will match these with NECCOG as closely as possible.

Next steps: after all our current inventory is located on the map, we'll review the "evaluation matrix" distributed by Stan and adapt it to be used when we evaluate new parcels.

Budget: Bob outlined what he included in HCC's FY2021 budget proposal. He requested that \$10,000 line item for Open Space be restored, and asked for \$1,000 for HCC expenses, including subscriptions, conferences, printing, and activities such as Earth Day.

There was some discussion regarding the *Habitat*, which was not ordered by IWWA and so HCC's subscription has stopped. No resolution.

New Business

Earth Day: Bob let the group know he'd like to sponsor an Earth Day Event each year, but for this year since time was limited, the group decided on an "Adopt-a-Road" event on **Saturday April 18th**. Event and info will be published in the Gazette and on the Town website; Pat will also put info in the Hampton Watch/Events Facebook page. Citizens are asked to call or email the chair and/or possibly another member and let them know which road or section of road they'll be cleaning up. The HCC will also identify those areas around town that need work and ask if anyone would be willing to "adopt" those sections. Everyone meets at the Town hall in the AM for coffee and biodegradable garbage bags.

Bob will ask the Public Works Crew to participate, and pick up bags and bulky items collected on the side of the road and bring them to the transfer station before 4pm. Participants will receive a seedling--which Marcia agreed would be a good "tree program." (see "additions to the agenda).

Bob will investigate locations to purchase inexpensive seedlings for participants.

Land Sale: 122 acres on Brook Street (probably the TimberDoodle LLC piece, which the HCC walked several years ago when it was for sale; LLC dissolved in 2003) for @\$450,000, includes 2 house lots in front and a right of way to the back 100+ acres.

Next Regular Meeting: March 18, 2020.

Special Mapping Meeting: Tuesday March 10, 2020, 6:30pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary