

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday February 18, 2026
Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Kevin Grindle, Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Absent: Marc Cardwell, Marcia Kilpatrick, Bruce Spaman

Audience: none

Seating of Alternates: Kevin for Bruce

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, January 21, 2026. **Motion made** (Kevin/Ev). **Approved**

Additions to Agenda: Open space priority discussion

Old Business

LRP Update:

Kevin gave an update on the progress of the construction schedule. Wood turtle habitat assessment (Quinn Ecological) will be completed by March (he couldn't do the work this month due to the snow). It's a 1-day assessment to determine if appropriate turtle habitat exists. DEEP is also asking that the HCC develop a protection plan during construction if turtles are found (which will be done by the biologist and folded into the RFP). If all goes well, the project may be able to go out to bid at the beginning of May.

Grant Reporting:

Next report is due April 15 for January – March. All invoices and payment receipts need to be given to Penny before then.

Road/Trail Program:

Nothing to report this month, although there was discussion re: the need for the Town attorney to review the issue and present an opinion regarding discontinued/abandoned roads. Mark and Ev will approach the selectmen to discuss.

Little River Preserve Dedication Program:

Mark suggested a ceremony at LRP when the work is done; if we are we need to set aside some money in next year's budget. Kevin suggested a ribbon cutting to save money. Agreed. Discussed a plaque with the names of people involved; Kevin will design the plaque, as soon as the contract is awarded, to be invoiced before July 1.

Bird Boxes and Old Town Pound Rd: tabled till next meeting

New Business

26-27 budget

Clearing at Little River, vine removal, \$ for Arbor Day, roadway clearing, clearing along the road to the first river opening at LRP (to save construction costs in their bid).

25/26 budget has \$9,000 to be spent by July 1. Can possibly use some of this for the roadway clearing, and a portion for trail clearing at the Cohantic Ledges Preserve.

Fish Infographic: was printed; will be put on the kiosk this month.

Additions to the agenda

Open space priority discussion:

Kevin displayed the NECCOG and state maps of properties and Ev brought Randy Thompson's old map showing current protected properties in town. Looked at various maps to see where to begin again with prioritization. Will discuss at next meeting our previous criteria of @ 10 years ago (size, proximity to other open space, proximity to Little River, prime farmland soils) and decide whether these priorities are still current. Possible new criteria: habitat value (NR database) in preparation for establishing new criteria and choosing priority properties to protect.

Communications:

Email from Stan Crawford regarding his desire to be on the trail/property maintenance group. HCC will invite him to the next meeting ; he was asked to contact Marc Cardwell, who is heading this group for the HCC.

Audience for Citizens: none

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary