

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting room
Minutes

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

Seating of Alternates: Kevin Grindle

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (May 21, 2025) motion made (Marcia/Bruce) to approve.

Approved.

Additions to Agenda:

Arbor Day tree

Fence

Stone bench

HCC knowledge of development issues

Old Business

LRP Update – Kevin presented a second set of updated plans for the Little River Preserve, 90% complete—all trails and grading is complete. Still waiting for soil borings/and analysis for the boardwalk. Waiting to get prices from these companies. He has a scope of work but the two contractors have not submitted their bids; will come within next 2 weeks. Parking area still needs some design to accommodate ADA space.

Discussion re: width of paved path to the first overlook.

Kevin stressed the need for continuous maintenance of the boardwalk and the access paths.

Grass Cutting – Marcia reports that the 1st selectman said the path couldn't be cut due to the excessive rain. He cut it himself, however, last week.

Tree issue: the tree next to the parking lot is a red oak and is felt to be too close to the parking lot. Other opinions are that the tree will shade the parking lot and the bench.

Stone bench from Kathy Thompson: Marcia recommends the HCC uses it at the LRP. She will tell Kathy to keep it until we can use it.

Fence along the road: Marcia concerned with ATVs but was told that they are no longer getting into the preserve. However, she recommends a wire fence or rocks along the road to discourage ATVs. Kevin recommended that we see what the space looks like after it's cleared and grubbed, then decide how to fence it.

Budget – Mark: the remainder of the budget has to be spent before July 1. Bird blind, clearing at Cohantic ledges, widening the perimeter of the preserve, grass cutting. Mark will contact Keith Crawford again to get a bid.

Bird Blind Noah Copp has built 80% of the structure and will be done this week.

Bird houses: no report

Bird Inventory: Marcia presented a report from Andy from Audubon re: June 5th count. 52 species found, with estimate for other species during other seasons. Presented recommendations to accommodate the birds. Andy offered to construct and maintain the martin house.

New Business

25/26 Budget: Mark believes the HCC budget was cut again, although it is receiving the \$10,000 for open space.

Communications

Letter requesting annual report. Mark will ask Marc to send it again to Dayna.

Applications going to the HCC: Discussion of the HCC being notified of certain permit applications so it can be once again part of the procedure of any type of development on open space or wetland/agricultural/historic area in town. Kevin will talk with Jay and PZC about getting this system back in place.

Audience for Citizens: none

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary