

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting (Zoom)
January 16, 2022
MINUTES

Members present: Mark Samios, Chair, Bruce Spaman, Karen Hamilton (seated for Ev Hyde, who came late), Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury
Minutes of October 6, 2021 approved (Bruce/Mark).

Additions to the agenda:

- Invasives (discussed under Old Business)
- State program “Think Like a Forester” (Feb 16th) discussed on the spot; Marcia will send email regarding the program

Old Business:

2022 Meeting dates: approved (Mark/Penny)

Cohantic Trail: Penny reported that the trail is cleared and signs put up; need volunteers with chainsaws to remove some logs from the paths.

Pollinator Info: Marcia has “pollinator pathway” information that she will share with the group at the next meeting.

Invasives: Marcia presented three invasives: Fig Buttercup, Garden Creeper, and Japanese Stilt Grass; decided that next poster should be Japanese Stilt grass.

Knotweed project: We want to continue it next year, and keep maintaining the areas we did last year. Bruce will help with publicizing the effort this year to get complete support from residents. Marcia will prepare an outline of the things we have to do for the coming year, and present at the next meeting.

Road Committee: Discussion on what to call these roads; Bruce suggested “linear parks,” as a way to put them in the context of wildlife corridors and connected trails. Ev gave an overview of previous attempts to deal with discontinued roads. Discussion on how to move forward with this task. Penny will re-distribute the list of roads that have been discontinued. Bruce will check out the Windy Hill Rd. and see what’s going on re: reports of logging trucks tearing it up. Motion made for Mark to ask the Selectmen to refrain from formally discontinuing or abandoning any town roads in the foreseeable future. (not voted on; needed actual wording)

Trail Maintenance of Edwards property: Mark will write a letter to the Friends of Goodwin (Stan) thanking them and the scouts for their help with trail clearing and maintaining trails at the Edwards property year round.

Donation of Funds from Hampton citizen: Nothing has happened yet as far as we know. Mark will ask the First Selectman where we stand re: our request.

Property List: Penny will send everyone the latest list of priority properties that was done (although it is quite old) so we can discuss it at the next meeting and decide how to proceed.

Discussion re: what constitutes an appropriate and legal attribute for a property to be considered desirable for open space (size alone is not appropriate; property must have other attributes)

Budget: The group reviewed the budget that Mark had presented with input from the group. Discussion followed re: the appropriate items to include in the budget. It was agreed that the inclusion of \$10,000 for the open space fund and \$10,000 for the municipal land acquisition fund is a priority. Bruce explained the “Mapping and planning” line item (\$500) that is the beginning of developing a stewardship plan, which when up and running can receive funds from the federal government to implement projects including expanding trails for safety/fire suppression, etc.

As several members did not have a copy of the budget at hand, it was decided to adjourn the meeting to a special meeting on January 27 at 6pm where the budget discussion will continue in order to present it to the Board of Finance on time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Penny Newbury, Secretary