

Hampton Conservation Commission
February 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chair Mark Samios. Present: Marcia Kilpatrick, Karen Hamilton, Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Marc Cardwell.

Audience present: Selectman John Tillinghast, Mr. McElroy (citizen and Joshua's Trust Trustee), and members of the Hampton Life and Eagle Scouts.

January Meeting Minutes approved (Ev/Marcia) with one abstention.

Additions to the Agenda:

- Approval of authorization to pay contractor for brush clearing at the Little River Property (Marc)
- Old Roads update (Ev)
- Conference Report (Marcia)

Old Business:

Little River Preserve/Recreational Trails grant

Discussion regarding progress on the grant application and work that still needs to be completed.

Mark will reach out to Kevin Grindle again for his scope of work in order to finish that portion of the application.

The Maintenance Plan addition to include that money collected from the hay field rental could be used for maintenance of the trails and the property in the future.

Letters of support are coming in; members assigned to remind orgs and people who have already agreed to send letters.

An overview of the project was given to the Scouts (Evelyn, John and Travis), who were there with parents/leaders to learn more about the project and whether they could participate as part of their Eagle Scout requirements.

Suggestions included the construction of small footbridges at the 5 access points to the river, construction of a kiosk and other signage, development of a nature trail in the woods section of the property, construction of a bird viewing blind and bench.

Mark will tell John T. to let the Scouts know that they can begin to plan any of these projects right away, even before we have submitted the grant.

In-kind costs were discussed; members agreed that included in the approximate \$40,000 needed for the grant match could be the Scout project, the engineer's (Kevin's) time in developing the site plans and scope of work, the brush clearing by Keith Crawford, possible materials donation associated with the construction of the parking area, additional guardrails along the road, replacement of the culvert, and public outreach that the HCC has already conducted regarding the property and the project.

Mark will post a **special meeting to review the application on Monday February 27 at 5pm.**

Budget

The budget submitted to the Board of Finance was reviewed. In total the HCC is requesting \$42,266; the majority of this is the in-kind promised by the Town.

Membership Terms.

Tabled until next meeting. Penny will send members an updated list of members' terms.

New Business:

Brush Clearing for Little River Access Points and other areas at the Preserve:

Ev made a motion (Marcia seconded) to contract Keith Crawford for 1.5 days' work at the Preserve (\$2,400) to clear the five access points and trim back the invasive growth at the edge of the hayfield.
Approved

Various Open Space Signage Tabled until next meeting.

Roads update: Tabled until next meeting

Pollinator Conference (Marcia)

The Library has set a date (May 6 or 7) for the conference; Bruce will get plants for sale. The HCC will donate \$100 to the speaker as an honorarium; Marcia will find out if she is requesting this.

Meeting Dates

Motion was made (Marc/Karen) to approve the schedule of HCC meeting dates for 2023. Approved.

Invasives Conference

Marcia provided an overview of the conference which included information on how to get rid of certain invasive plants with fencing and insects. Knotweed, it seems, is not fazed by anything, however.

Communications: none

Audience for citizens: none

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary