

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 21, 2023 6:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room
MINUTES

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Karen Hamilton, Penny Newbury, Karen Hamilton, Marc Cardwell, Bruce Spaman. Absent: Marcia Kilpatrick. Audience members present: Stan Crawford, Bob Grindle, for Kevin Grindle.

Audience for citizens: Bob advised the group that Kevin is happy about the DEEP grant process and advises the group to continue to apply for funds for the boardwalk. Discussion followed re: maintenance schedule and responsibilities on Little River preserve. Bob said the Town will maintain the brush in the pathways and at the next selectman's meeting will remind them that it needs to be done now. Discussion re: alerting the selectmen at each meeting on the status of the brush and if it needs to be cleared/mowed.

Further discussion re: installation of a kiosk letting the public know what the plans are and what work is being done. Stan presented list of materials and said he would build it gratis.

Motion made (Ev/Karen) to allow Mark to order materials for kiosk based on Stan's list, up to \$1,000). Approved.

Approval of Minutes:

None to approve, there being no quorum last month.

Additions to the Agenda

None

Old Business

Status of Little River Preserve Grant

Discussed in Audience for Citizens.

Arbor Day

Bruce gave a recap of Arbor Day, which was a success again this year. Cost of the tree was \$300. Plans are starting for next year.

Walktober

Marc gave overview: Hampton Antiquarian Society/Sue Hochstetter will organize a talk at the LR Preserve on October 14, regarding its history. The HCC is expected to have a plan to show what we are doing at the preserve.

Membership

Discussion re: returning to 9 members. Currently there are 5 members and 2 alternates.

Motion made (Ev/Penny) to change the membership to 7 members and 2 alternates. Discussion followed re: pros and cons. Motion passed, 4 to 1. Mark will send a letter to the BoS for their next meeting to change the membership to 7 regular and 2 alternates and appoint Marc Cardwell and Karen Hamilton as regular members and Stan Crawford as an alternate, leaving 1 open alternate position.

Board of Finance Update

The HCC received what it requested except the \$25,000 was changed to \$10,000 for maintenance and upgrades of the LR property. DPW hours and volunteer hours need to be tracked for use in upcoming grant applications. Members will tell Penny ANY time they are doing work for the LR property and she will keep a spreadsheet. Marc will find out the average per hour charge for volunteer labor.

New Business

Open Space Covenants: due to an heir approaching the HCC regarding acquisition of property with a questionable easement, the HCC will meet with the First Selectman to verify existing covenants on the property in question.

Roads to Trails

Ev reported that he and Kevin Grindle are discussing the best road to focus on (either Jericho Rd or Parker Rd. with Parker being the favored one)

Discontinuance has to be approved by Selectmen

Abandonment concerns use, time, and intent.

Discussion re: hunter access, easements on roads going through private property, and collaboration with adjoining towns.

Communications

Thank you card from the Hampton Elementary School re: their trip to the LR Preserve. Very cute! And can be use din next grant application.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury
Secretary