Hampton Conservation Commission October 25, 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairman Randy Thompson at 7:35 p.m. Also present: Wayne Kilpatrick, Marcia Kilpatrick, Phoebe Huang, Everett Hyde, and Bob Johnson.

Minutes of September 27, 2011 were unanimously accepted.

Audience for citizens: Deb Barton

Old Business:

Loiselle Property: No news from Andy Rzeznikiewic.

<u>Vadnais (Edwards) property update</u>: The owner has requested information on how other towns have treated land purchased as Open Space. Several commission members will contact conservation commissions of surrounding towns, including Ashford, Scotland, and Chaplin, The commission also discussed securing a Letter of Intent prior to authorizing an appraisal of the property. Clearly it is too early for this now.

<u>Invasive plant of the month</u>: Porcelain Berry. This vining plant can grow to 20 feet, spreads by way of berry seeds and can become invasive by dint of its vigorous growth habit.

<u>Hampton Walks Brochure</u>: Bob Johnson expects to have something to show the Commission at the next meeting.

<u>Gazette articles</u> The article Marcia Kilpatrick submitted on last month's invasive plant, the Black Swallow, missed the October deadline. It will appear in November.

<u>Hampton High Road publication</u>: Penny Newbury sent an e-mail to the editors on behalf of the Commission to determine publication deadlines.

<u>HHC Vacancy</u>: Deb Barton has expressed interest in filling the empty Alternate spot on the Commission. Phoebe Huang made a motion to recommend Deb for this position. The motion was seconded by Marcia Kilpatrick and carried unanimously. The next step will be authorization by the town Selectmen and a swearing-in. The term of service for this position is a retroactive from June 1, 2011 through June 1, 2014.

New Business

<u>USDA Grassland Reserve Program</u>: Chairman Thompson made the commission aware of a government program to preserve grasslands. Applications are being solicited. Marcia Kilpatrick intends to inform Joshua's Trust of this program.

<u>Results from "meet the candidates" night:</u> Each candidate for First Selectperson was asked about restoration of funding to the town land accounts. Alan Cahill asserted that he would, if elected. Kate Donnelly indicated that a "yes" would be dependent upon the economy.

<u>November special meeting at GSF (Goodwin State Forest) Center</u>: Steve Broderick has invited the Commission to hold its November meeting at the GSF Center. Chairman Thompson will explore whether Martha Frankel is able to attend the meeting and provide her insights into state funding for the purchase of Open Space. Some synergy exists in that the Vadnais property, which the Commission is interested in, abuts Goodwin State Forest.

<u>Recycling</u>: The State is reviving greater interest in recycling across the 15 towns of the Consortium as part of a conservation/expense reduction effort. A meeting is scheduled for January 31.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phoebe Huang, acting recording secretary