

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)
Wed. March 17, 2021
MINUTES

Members present: Mark Samios, Marcia Kilpatrick, Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Bruce Spaman. Absent: Pat Cascio, Karen Hamilton.

Audience: Stan Crawford, Sabrina Ganacoplos (Eversource Arborist).

Kathy Donahue facilitating Zoom

Motion made/seconded (Ev/Bruce) to accept the minutes with the following corrections: Knotweed information needs to say May or early June removal; typo of "Donna's" name. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Knotweed Project - Marcia Kilpatrick

Marcia checked with the woman from Niantic who has a power point presentation on knotweed control, to see if we can borrow it.

Need to have a meeting to explain about knotweed project to people who are participating.

Marcia was asked to develop an overview for all participants, and finalized a date that the meeting will take place, after she speaks with the Scout troops to find their availability.

Information will be posted on the website. Another article will also be in the *Gazette* this month. Marcia suggested putting posters in public spots around town. Need to get bags, tools, water, refreshments, etc. Mark volunteered to provide these items. The first date will be around May 1, but no need for everyone to do it around town on the same day. Marcia again stressed that this applies to town roads only, not state highways.

Arbor Day --Bruce Spaman

Bruce gave an overview for Sabrina. Board of Education/ PTO, and Rec Commission are going to each donate a tree. Eversource will also donate seedlings for all the students, and will coordinate with Mark about donating larger trees as well. Bruce stressed importance of planting trees in groves, for shade in the playground area, and also the need to prepare the planting area well. Will ask DPW to dig the holes and plant the trees ahead of the ceremony--April 30, 9:30AM at the School

Students will do poems and songs—there are 73 kids in the elementary school

Partners will also be acknowledged at the ceremony.

Susan Stotts (former Eversource utility arborist for the area) will introduce Sabrina Ganacoplos

Open Space/Trails Project - Penny Newbury

Penny will revise the online brochure to make it prettier—still hasn't been uploaded to the website yet.

Penny will ask DPW if they can use chainsaw to cut larger trees blocking the trail at the Cohantic ledges

Mark will ask Al if DPW is planning on clearing the Hammond Hill property's Little River frontage this spring.

Penny asked for assistance clearing some trails.

Discussion followed re: trail marking and appropriate paint to use.

New Business

Bird Houses - Stan Crawford said he would provide pre-cut bird houses if we wanted to have a put-it-together event so we can educate the public and they can take them home.

Group agreed it was a great idea but probably not enough time to do an activity this year before the birds are nesting. Perhaps we can do this in the fall and then people would have a birdhouse to put up next spring.

Budget - Mark Samios

Mark reminded everyone that the budget we have currently is very small. We asked for 3x the amount of our current budget.

We've also asked that the Town reinstate the \$10,000 open space acquisition line item.

Commission membership and terms - Mark Samios

There are 5 members, 2 alternates

Some confusion as to whether Karen Hamilton was ever sworn in.

Currently the members are Penny, Pat, Marcia, Ev, and Mark. Alternates: Bruce, Karen (?). Stan has officially resigned.

Names and term endings are not updated on the web page. Penny will send Mark an updated list of members and their term ends, and find out missing information.

Communications: none

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury, Secretary