

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday September 17, 2025
Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Kevin Grindle, Bruce Spaman, Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury, Marc Cardwell, Ev Hyde.

Audience: Allan Cahill, First Selectman

Seating of Alternates: none

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, August 20, 2025 **Motion made** (Marc/Marcia). **Approved with correction** that the scouts will report on the bird this fall (as opposed to spring)

Additions to Agenda: Knotweed (Marcia), Bruce Spaman (Roads)

Old Business

LRP Update – Kevin: Plans are 98% complete. Test borings were complete --2 borings done, went down 31' and determined that the boardwalk good compact for a foundation. Strength would be 6,000lbs capacity. Bid documents and technical specifications 97% complete and printed.

Motion made (Ev/Marcia) to authorize the bid documents to go to the selectmen to be approved at their October 6 meeting. **Approved unanimously.**

Expected updated bidding process/timeline from then on:

- Selectmen meet on October 6 to authorize that the project be put out to bid; RFP goes out on Oct. 9 (also put on Town's website and state DAS website). Kevin will be at the meeting to answer questions. Kevin will address certain ancillary issues before the RFP goes out.
- 4 weeks to submit bids (bids received @ Nov 6; bids reviewed with Selectmen the week of Nov. 10.)
- Then contract is awarded November 12, and contractor receives notice to proceed (after their documents are submitted) @ November 19. DEEP is simultaneously notified.
Timeline: 60-90 days, with the paving being done in the spring (after April 1).

Next Rec trails grant has not been announced yet; this issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Map creation postponed; it's hoped we can have it by September 27th (our table at the Harvest Festival). Kevin will get it to Marc.

Land Clearing Vine Clearing, Field Cutting– Marc: cleaned the entrance to the Eagle Scout walk; planning on clearing openings to the bird blind and pond. Marcia spoke about the trails around the property and asked about having the contractor maintain the closer trails more intensively, to have walkable trails, as opposed to attending to the furthest ones. Discussion regarding the walkability of the trails and the need to mow more frequently.

Discussion regarding additional land clearing at LRP: suggestions included volunteers removing bittersweet, although some remarked that the clearing needed to be done by a professional. Also knotweed. Trees need to have vines removed to preserve them but this is a major project. According the First Selectman, "It's nassssty work."

Marc will call Keith and find out if he knows a landscaper who will do it, or a Mennonite. Area: along the road, up the river, and around the pond. Marcia will also look for someone.

Harvest Festival (Bruce): September 27; we will need a pop-up tent (Mark), and a presentation kiosk, and set of construction documents/plan set (2 easels worth of documents). Other members will be there as well.

New Business

Budget update: Mark gave an update on what has been spent and what is left on the LR grant, leaving 10,850 in the HCC budget for this fiscal year.

Land purchases (Mark): we don't have an updated list of preferred properties. Discussion regarding purpose of certain purchases.

Bruce advised of property (land) on Windy Hill that is in foreclosure. Sale is 9/27. 13.1 acres.

Need a list of priorities; Penny will find the old list and share it with the HCC at the next meeting.

Pollinator conference: Marcia won't be going this year; gave an overview of the conference (November 13th) for those who may want to go. (\$70)

Knotweed presentation on Sept 24 in Pomfret at the Community Center; Marcia will go to that meeting.

LRP Benches: Discussion re: Eagle Scout Evelyn's project; Marc will check with her as to her interest.

Additions to the agenda

Discussion of roads-to-trails project.

Bruce visited Jericho Rd and found it invasive-free, well-constructed and level. Issue with gate at beginning of property with erroneous "no trespassing" sign.

Allan advised HCC that it is a town-owned road; Kevin will research all the abutters (could not do it this month) and advise us at next meeting.

Communications

Stan Crawford asked if the HCC could develop a stewardship subcommittee to oversee the maintenance of the Edwards preserve, with the disbanding of the Friends of Goodwin. Allan will invite Stan to the next meeting to talk about what he and the group would like from the HCC.

Fish Report – Marc will send Penny a list of fish and she will create an infographic for public reference.

Nick Bellantoni will return to Hampton to give more info re: the dam history, and will be at the Harvest Festival.

Audience for Citizens : none

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary