

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 15, 2026
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, Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Bruce Spaman, Kevin Grindle, Marc Cardwell

Audience for Citizens:

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting March 18, 2026. **Motion made** (Mark/Ev). **Approved** with corrections: Kevin was absent; mistakenly listed as present. Also Marcia was present. Ev pointed out that he thought that Penny was to be involved in the roads project but review of the minutes showed that not to be the case.

Additions to Agenda: land additions that came to Joshua's trust, benches, various brush cutting.

Old Business

LRP Update:

Kevin: The DEEP biologist has been in communication with Kevin; he sent the report to the HCC, which identifies many turtles on the property. Found wood, spotted, painted, and snapping turtles. (report includes photos and GPS coordinates and mapping). So HC accessible path to river would put people in the path of the turtles. However, if we created habitat elsewhere (farther from the road) he would support it, and provided suggestions and a map, which is partly in the haying/agriculture area. The parking lot and the boardwalk are of no concern to the biologist. Discussion re: suggesting an alternate habitat area in the south of the property, creating more clearing, or moving the roadside path closer to the road and elevated. Kevin will present these alternatives to the biologist.

Grant Reporting:

Penny will be submitting the 3rd quarterly report for LRP to DEEP asap (due 4/15)
Mark presented the HCC budget to the Board of Finance for the 2026/27 year.

Bird Boxes

Marcia gave Penny and Marc a wood duck box; found 3 possible places and will install next week. Bluebird boxes were made by the Scouts for us at one of their events, but they haven't given to us yet. Need to be put on posts 4' or higher.
Purple martin house: discussion that the selection of where it was placed is unacceptable. It should be relocated to an open space behind the pond; Marcia will talk to the installer.

Road/Trail Program:

Ev reports that he is still pulling information together and it is a several months project.

Benches

Marcia asked for someone to build benches, since scouts are unavailable. Bruce suggested a memorial bench project. Ev suggested having a picnic table somewhere for families.

Joshua's Trust Land Acquisition

Marcia reported several properties in Hampton totaling about 300+ acres that are now protected by Joshua's Trust, who manage them.

Brush Cutting

Discussion of cutting brush to keep the trails clear at the LRP

Fishing Derby

Recreation Commission is co-sponsoring it with HCC; sometime in the fall, hopefully after the boardwalk is constructed. 150 trout have gone into the pond so there will be some fish for kids under 16 to catch. The object is to get more people to come to LRP and see/use the property. Will advertise via flyers and social media.

Arbor Day

Will be April 24th; 9:30 – 10:30. Flyers will be distributed. It will be held at Chauncey Cleveland's house (corner of East Old Rt. 6 and Main St.) Idea is to start putting street trees back on Main Street.

Open space priority discussion (tabled from last 2 months):

Motion made (Ev/Mark) to table it again until next meeting. Approved.

[from February meeting minutes]: *Kevin displayed the NECCOG and state maps of properties and Ev brought Randy Thompson's old map showing current protected properties in town. Looked at various maps to see where to begin again with prioritization. Will discuss at next meeting our previous criteria of @ 10 years ago (size, proximity to other open space, proximity to Little River, prime farmland soils) and decide whether these priorities are still current. Possible new criteria: habitat value (NR database) in preparation for establishing new criteria and choosing priority properties to protect.*

Communications: none

Audience for Citizens: none

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary