

Hampton Conservation Commission
Wednesday May 15, 2024, 6:30 PM, Hampton Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

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

Selectman present: John Tillinghast.

Audience for Citizens: None.

Motion made (Cardwell, Spaman) to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved.

Additions to the Agenda: Fisheries Biologist visit to the Little River Preserve

Old Business

- Little River Update: Kevin reported that the DEEP decision on grants will be announced around June 1.
- LRP future with or without grant funding: discussion tabled until the HCC hears of the DEEP decision
- Complaint from citizen re: advertised trails: The Chair reported that he advised the 1st Selectman of the issue; the 1st Selectman said he was aware of it but no further action was taken. J. Tillinghast will ask the 1st Selectman to speak to the abutting property owner.
- Ev will share with the HCC an article that he's been writing for the Gazette regarding the history of many of the old/former roads in town and the precedents that established them as public rights of way.

New Business

- 2023/24 budget: The Chair advised that it needs to be spent by 6/30. The commission went over the list of proposed items, and chose a gate style that Mark will run past the 1st selectman, as well as the plan for fencing materials and brush clearing.
- Signage: Signs were reviewed. Penny will get signs to Signs plus for printing; Marc will get the fish information signs for the access points.
- Culvert repair issue: Kevin will give a cost estimate to Mark for presentation to the Board of Finance, with an explanation of where it is in the Preserve and what exactly it's for.
- 24/25 budget: The Chair reported that with the Town budget being tight this year it is doubtful that the HCC will receive what it asked for.

Additions to the Agenda:

- Fisheries biologist from DEEP will be visiting the LRP on May 21 to assess the health of the stream and pond.
- Discussion re: the possibility of an easement purchase along the Little River.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury, Secretary