

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday May 20, 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, Marcia Kilpatrick, Bruce Spaman, Marc Cardwell.

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting April 15, 2026. **Motion made** (Ev/Kevin). **Approved** with corrections: Kevin was listed twice; Marcia was not listed as present. Marcia wanted more detail regarding Joshua's Trust's acquisition of the Andrews and Scarpino parcels.

Additions to Agenda: none

Old Business

LRP Update:

Kevin gave update re: his conversations with the DEEP biologist regarding a revised plan for the relocation of the proposed turtle habitat and the protection of the current hayfield areas. The biologist approved this plan (map created) and provided suggestions as to how to create these areas and how to notify the farmer. He will then make a report to DEEP to clear the project for commencement (could take 30 days). Kevin does not see any significant impact to the budget for creating these areas, and work can be paid for by the grant funds. Kevin suggests we bid this out in the interim, since we have approval from the biologist, who believes that his department will clear it. Target for bids out: 3rd week in June. 4 weeks to respond (end of July). DEEP needs to approve the awarding of the contract (by September). This project could probably be completed by the end of the year.

Grant Reporting:

Penny reported on the submittal of the 3rd quarterly report for LRP to DEEP (4/15) and the need to report to DEEP regarding an overpayment made to the contractor and their subsequent reimbursement that will have to be reported to DEEP at some point.

Mark reported that the Board of Finance removed \$4,000 from our proposed 2026/27 budget and will recommend a budget of \$16,400.

Bird Boxes

4 Bluebird boxes were made by the Scouts for us, were given to the 2nd Selectman, but they haven't been given to us yet or installed.

Purple martin house: Marcia talked to the installer re: re-location; Town road crew will work with installer to move it when both parties have the time. Mark will continue to pursue this with the first selectman.

Road/Trail Program:

Ev reports that he is still pulling information together, going through documents and deeds collected by Randy Thompson; it is a several months project. Ev presented old minutes from 1969 approving signage for abandoned town roads. The first selectman wants more information before we speak to the town attorney. Identifying the legitimate roads is still forthcoming. We will revisit this again next month.

Arbor Day

Bruce reported on the seventh annual Hampton Arbor Day (April 24): one tree was planted on corner of E. Old Rt 6 and Main Street, with the hope to plant more and re-tree the street, with some ornamentals under the trees, to not interfere with the power lines. Eversource was a sponsor; the event was well-attended.

Plan of Conservation and Development

Ev, Marc and Mark attended the last meeting; Kevin will provide a draft of the HCC section of the POCD to the Commission members, as soon as possible—probably next week. Would like comments in written form by the next meeting of PZC (6/15 at 7pm).

Town-owned Properties on Windy Hill Rd.

Bruce will do the mapping for the service forester at Goodwin; he can do an assessment of the properties and their potential by the fall. He will give us a list of foresters who can do a 5-10 year stewardship plan for us that will include what type of timber is there and what it's worth, and how to manage it.

Memo Re: POCD and preservation of open space

Marc reiterated his point in the memo he sent to the HCC. Need to think of ways in which the HCC can accomplish its mission. Discussion followed re: the need to establish standards of identifying worthy properties that are understood town-wide. Suggestions: quality of habitat on the land, and whether the property abuts currently conserved property. It was decided to use next month to discuss a draft list of 10 criteria (created by Kevin) by which we can identify properties. Mark suggested that we should think in terms other than just purchasing property.

Memorial Benches

Discussion re: having some at the Preserve and elsewhere. Need a limit to the number, and an understanding of installation.

Involvement of HCC in the development application process

Mark will send an email to the first selectman, second selectman, and the ZEO regarding having any applicant visit the HCC first as part of the permitting process.

Communications: none

Audience for Citizens: none

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary