

Town of Hampton
Conservation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Ev Hyde, Marcia Kilpatrick, Karen Hamilton, Pat Cascio, Bruce Spaman, Penny Newbury. Absent—nobody!

Audience for Citizens: none.

Additions to the agenda: Arbor Day recap (old business); Wild Ones news (new business)

Approval of Minutes: There being no meeting last month due to a lack of quorum, a motion was made (Mark/Bruce) to approve the minutes of 4/21. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Knotweed Event: 2nd cutting is this Saturday the 19th. Discussion followed regarding priority roads, methods of cutting, and the request for people to take their bags to the transfer station when possible. Marcia will be at the Pavilion on Saturday to hand out bags. Mark reported speaking with the First Selectman regarding their willingness to assist with herbicide. The HCC felt that they did not want to use herbicide at this time, even though the task seemed “insurmountable.”

The Niantic group has invited the HCC to visit in August to see how they had controlled knotweed in their town.

Budget: Mark reported on the budget, which was \$250 this year and \$603 proposed for next year. Discussion followed as to how to spend some of this year’s remaining funds (knotweed supplies, etc.) before 7/1. The Selectmen also voted to include the \$10,000 yearly open space funding in this year’s budget, which will go to referendum.

Arbor Day: Bruce gave an overview of the event, which was well-attended and elicited much enthusiasm among the students. 3 large trees were planted, and the First Selectman read a proclamation. See attached report, as well as Arbor Day poems written by the students.

New Business

Communications: The First Selectman reported to Mark that the Town may receive @\$400,000 in additional COVID relief funds that could be used for limited projects (not roads) including capital repairs, construction, and possible brush removal at the Little River in the Hammond Hill property. The Selectmen also approved their 5-year road upkeep plan.

CT Wild Ones: Marcia gave an overview of the latest presentation on meadows and habitat. The focus was on turkey habitat and important native plants as pollinators, including milkweed, joe pye weed, jewelweed, clethra, goldenrod, bayberry, and meadowsweet, among others. She will forward further Wild Ones messages to the group.

The next HCC Meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned via motion (Ev/Mark) at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary