

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday July 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 (for Bruce Spaman), Ev Hyde, Penny Newbury, Marcia Kilpatrick, Marc Cardwell. Also present: John Tillinghast.

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting June 17, 2026. **Motion made** (Marc/Mark). **Approved.**

Additions to Agenda: Time limit for tonight's meeting: until 8pm

Old Business

LRP Update:

Kevin gave an update re: his most recent interactions with the DEEP biologist regarding the revised plan for the re-location of the proposed turtle habitat and the protection of the current hayfield areas. DEEP officials wanted to reduce the exposure of the hayfields to the turtles. This was not an option, since we already have an agreement with the farmer. The other option is to remove the path from the parking lot to the river. Kevin suggested a meeting with him, the biologist, the first selectman, and DEEP reps to make a decision. Currently the meeting time depends on the 1st selectman's schedule, with hopes that it will be within the next 2 weeks.

Penny reported on communication from DEEP re: confusion about invoices and question about payment.

Bird Houses and Bird Blind

Ev put in 5 bird houses in the LRP. He also commented on the work done on the bird blind; it does not seem to be put together to last, and even now is currently failing due to improper fasteners. Ev tried to make repairs to the corners and trim but still believe it will not last long.

Property List/Matrix

The group discussed the matrix and altered some of the categories and weight given to each category:

Natural Resources	Water Resources	Ag. Value	Connectivity (adjacent to other preserved properties)	Potential for Near-Term (5 years) Development	Recreation Potential	Historic/Cultural/Archaeological	Size	Leverage
15%	15%	15%	15%	10%	10%	5%	10%	5%

Kevin suggested that it would be helpful to develop a list of properties objectively, with some type of entry point/ranked priority "a defensible starting point" that isn't merely arbitrary and subjective. Adjacent to the Little River was a suggestion—taking all properties bordering the Little River and ranking them.

Penny will send the revised matrix; members will edit it and send it back. Kevin will find out which properties on the old list are still viable.

Communications: none

Audience for Citizens: none

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary