

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday August 19, 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, Bruce Spaman, Penny Newbury, Marcia Kilpatrick, Marc Cardwell. Also present: John Tillinghast, Allan Cahill.

Audience for Citizens: none

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting July 15, 2026. **Motion made** (Marcia/Mark). **Approved.**

Additions to Agenda: maintenance of HCC maintenance

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. Kevin and the 1st selectman had a meeting with DEEP officials last week re: turtle habitat. The analyst stated that the only way the project would go forward was if there was no haying. The project had been approved by Rec Trails/Greenways; the wildlife people, who made this decision, were not involved. Kevin contacted the Greenways coordinator, who acknowledged that there are inter-departmental DEEP issues, and advised us to not have meetings with them anymore. Kevin wrote an email per Greenways, who will distribute it to the appropriate parties; this is an issue statewide and needs to be resolved.

Kevin recommends that we wait till after Labor Day to see if this will be resolved internally before then.

Allan reported that the rest of the fence has been constructed by DPW.

POCD Discussion

The recent draft (original was written in 2016) has been updated; members discussed the Conservation section. Discussion revolved around length, repetitiveness, outdated and now misleading statistics, and the need to concentrate on the HCC's mission, what is actually does, and how it needs to be consistently involved with the activities of other commissions and vice versa. Also discussion regarding Hampton's issue with water and the water table in certain areas. PZC will be issuing a final draft based on comments, and this draft will be distributed within the next weeks.

By the next meeting members will provide a list of 10 bullet points of what they feel are the most important goals of the HCC within the next ten years.

Property List/Matrix

Prior to the discussion, Bruce mentioned a resident interested in selling a piece of property (2.6 acres) with some colonial industrial history, waterfalls, pond, and which the Little River runs through. Discussion regarding whether or not the property is in danger of development (unlikely; the property is protected by its wetlands/pond/river). Mark will talk with the property owner to see further what they are thinking about.

Back to the property list: Mark recommend that the highest priorities should be those that abut the Little River.

New Business

Maintenance of owned projects

Marcia reported on a series of projects already being implemented in Hampton that require routine maintenance (eg, the pollinator field behind the Community Center needing weeding). There needs to be a group of people who take responsibility for current projects. Discussion regarding the fact that this will be an ongoing and growing issue in the future.

Service Forester Site Visit of Windy Hill

Bruce went over the questionnaire with the commission to get feedback.

Motion made (Ev/Mark) to submit the questionnaire to the service forester. **Approved**

Harvest Festival: HCC will have a table there. (September 26)

Communications: none

Audience for Citizens: none

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary