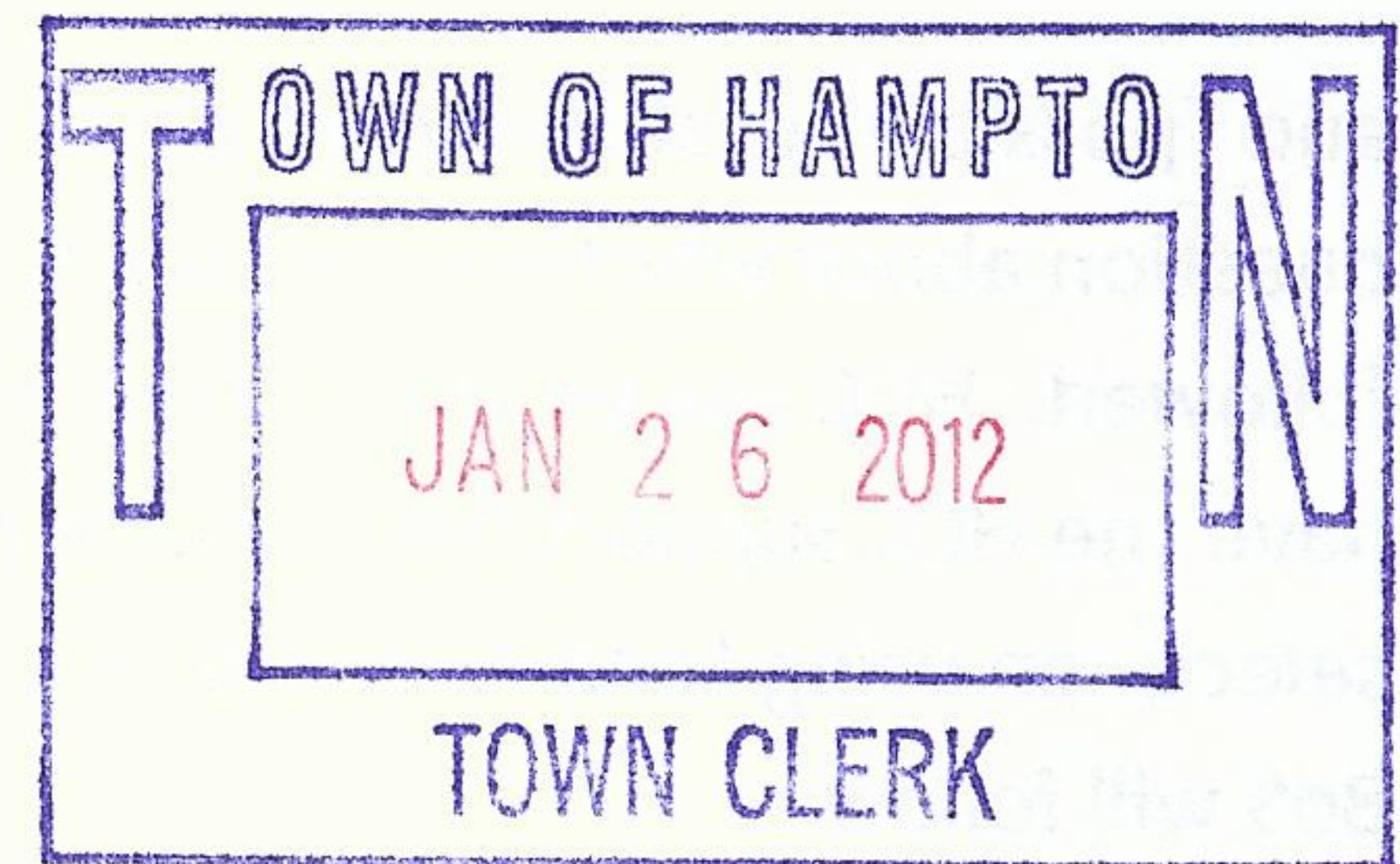


Hampton Conservation Commission

Minutes of the 24 January, 2012 meeting



The meeting was called to order by chairman Thompson at 7:34 pm.

Also present were: Penny Newbury, Bob Johnson, Marcia Kilpatrick, Wayne Kilpatrick, Linda Gorman and Eve Hyde. Absent were Phoebe Huang and Deb Barton.

Seating of alternates: Eve Hyde was seated for Phoebe Huang.

Additions to the agenda:

- 1 Under new business, Eve Hyde wanted to discuss HCC's role in P&Z set-asides in the conservation subdivision plans.
- 2 Under old business, Marcia wanted us to talk about Tom Gaines letter regarding town commitment to funding of open space.

Acceptance of minutes of the December , 2011 meeting. Minutes accepted.

Audience for citizens: None

Guest speakers from Goodwin State Forest, Dan Evans and James Parda , came to discuss the recent plan of management. Dan was hired for two years to inventory GSF, as well as Natchaug SF, and make up a natural resource management plan involving tree health, roads, erosion, recreation, bridges, dams, and fire control. It was over an hour of presentation, and answers to questions from HCC members and the audience. The speakers gave an overview of the forest management plan in GSF, and how DEEP wants to interact with Hampton in regards to forest maintenance and protection. They also talked about the need for more state foresters in Conn., and how these foresters make up for their salaries many times over in producing revenues from wood sales alone. Dan spoke of erosion control, and of the need to control invasive species, such as cork tree, devil's walking stick, barberry and others. On 21 April there will be a workshop showing torch elimination of barberry. Other parts of the plan include education, protection of old growth forest and managing new growth. It is a 10 year management plan and will be on the DEEP website.

Old Business:

1 Loisel property. Mike Chapel came to the meeting and had some new information about the property. It is about 177 acres off of Parker road and rt. 97, and may be for sale for \$177K. This parcel is already an approved house lot from back in 1995, but there is interest in moving the house and access to rt. 97 (Pudding Hill Rd.) . Should this access be rejected by IWWC, access could be from Parker road,

and "possibly" cost the town a half million dollars to upgrade the road. He wanted HCC to consider the question about whether we (the town) have to improve the road to develop the house site. Discussion followed. HCC will be in touch with Andy R.---a contact person for Loiselle. Marcia made a motion to have the HCC support the possible purchase of the Loiselle property depending on the Board of selectmen using Land Acquisition funds. Eve Hyde seconded. Approved unanimously. A letter to the BoS will follow.

2. Vadnais (Edwards) property. Randy Thompson received an E-mail from Mike Vadnais saying he received the letter we sent him, and giving his permission to have appraisals done. Thompson will contact a number of people to get prices on "yellow book" appraisals. At the next Board of Selectmen's meeting we will ask to spend the money necessary for this.

3. Windham Road subdivision. There will be a site walk Thursday, 26 Jan., at 4 pm. All HCC members encouraged to attend, if possible.

4. Invasive plant of the month. Phragmites, a serious invader of water bodies. Tall and feathery....looks good as a dried arrangement...!

5. HCC maps. We hope to store all maps in the town hall soon, sharing a small storage room.

6. Tom Gaine's letter. Bob Johnson and Eve Hyde will work on wording of Tom's letter requesting annual funding for the open space account.

Old Business:

1, DEEP Open Space Grant Money. Land acquisition money will be available soon.

2. NRCS. Tabled

3. HCC Yearly Report. Chairman Thompson will do this.

4. National Diversity Data Base Areas. Tabled

5. Eve Hyde began discussion on HCC and open space set-asides. He talked about an issue that came up at the P&Z meeting regarding re-splitting sub-divisions, and how the 40% set-aside rule is applied; how those pieces are related to each other. He wants HCC to consider large parcels and pre designate where the set-asides would be. That way the 40% would be on record as a recommendation. Discussion followed.

Communications. Tabled.

Audience for citizens. None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm. RT acting rec. sec.