

HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 26, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairman Wayne Kilpatrick.

Also present: Randy Thompson, Ev Hyde, Bob Johnson, Joann Freeman, Marcia Kilpatrick and Phoebe Huang. Absent were Dan Meade and Penny Newbury.

Minutes accepted after it was noted that 2 of the invasive plants brought to the previous meeting were not included in the minutes.

Audience: None

Additions to agenda: Info on invasive plants, use of town property for hunting and land included in Mrs. Edwards estate.

Annual meeting and discussion with Steve Broderick:

Steve reported that the Center has had an active year seeing an increase in visitors/hikers to the Center. They presently have four part time employees and a good core of volunteers who have already logged approx. 1200 hours.

There are eight gardens in various stages of development in a variety of locations with different types of plantings. Better labeling for gardens and trails being done.

Information on the web as well as pamphlets help with self guided tours. In the future pod casts for down loading will also be available. Several land management activities have been or will be done next year. Nine kiosks are to be built by Hamptonite Stan Crawford to place at intersections on Goodwin Forest trails.

The big current meeting room in the Centers' main building will be transformed into more of a educational center with a chronological display of photos starting at the main entrance and continuing along the big rooms walls starting when Mr. Goodwin purchased the property in 1914. Historical data is in the process of being scanned or digitalized. Help is needed with this project as well as the photo display. It is hoped that by next summer a docent will be installed at the Center.

A primary goal of the Center is to use habitats and woods management as teaching tools and using the land as an "outdoor classroom". Phoebe suggested better defining the Centers goals in the current pamphlet .

Steve informed us that this part of the state has no state forester assigned. He explained how this position pays for itself because better managed forests produce more product and create more state income than the managers salary. Wayne stated he would bring this to the attention of the Consortium at their January 31, 2011 meeting to possibly write a letter addressing this. Steve will write something for Wayne to present. Also explained was how so much state monies go into the general fund beyond which money is supposed to go into a state conservation fund. This formula has been tampered with over recent years to the detriment of the conservation fund.

In November the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Ct. Forest Conservation and Research Forum will be held at the UCONN Greater Hartford Campus.

Old Business.

Barns - Angelica Hansen and Tanya Stone are interested in neighborhoods for photographing barns and barn-like structures yet not done. The help would be appreciated and Wayne will get a list of areas in Hampton not photographed and discuss with Angelica.

A revised article about Conservation Easements was submitted to the Gazette for November issue.

Fall Walks - Bob wrote an article for the Gazette to inform all interested about a hike at Blue Flag Meadow to be held on November 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Woodward property - owner wishes to keep five acres with the house and is willing to sell the remaining 10 - 11 acres to the town for preservation. Inquiry as to development prospects will be done. TDR's discussed.

#### New Business:

Little River - A letter by Virginia Welch was read. She is very concerned about the amount of river erosion that has taken place over the past few years because trees have fallen into the river, (off Sand Hill Road), and altered the river's course. Waters have gouged out a large section of the sandy soil abutting her property. There is concern about changes in the habitat in this area as well. It is her hope that the CC will write a letter to the proper state authorities about this. Steve said that Rick Jacobson, Director of Wildlife Division would be the person to contact. Wayne will do so.

#### Invasive plants:

Marsha showed us both smooth and winged euonymus. These plants are still being sold at Nursery's but only for another year or so, (in Ct.).

She also brought an article about a UCONN group experimenting with black plastic as a way to control phragmites.

Randy informed us that permitting hunting on the Kimball Hill Rd. - Windy Hill Rd. town property, (60 acres), was discussed at the last BOS meeting. This was shelved by the BOS until next year so more research could be done. Randy will draft a letter to the BOS indicating the commission's favoring this and why.

Edwards property - a letter will be drafted to send to the heir of the 50 acres formerly belonging to Mrs. Rita Edwards as to possible interest in preserving the land either through sale to the town or the state. Steve mentioned this as a possibility since the property abuts Goodwin Forest. The Recreational and Natural Heritage Trust could be used for this. The state would also be responsible for the appraisal. Requests for funds can be submitted anytime. An application can be downloaded from the State's web site if there is an interest to sell.

~~Audience none~~

~~Meeting adjourned~~ at 9:15 p.m.