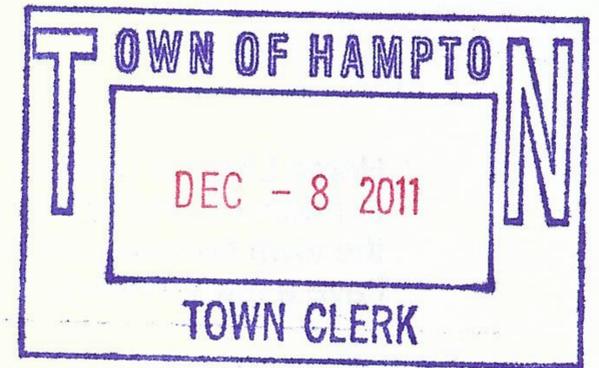


Hampton Conservation Commission
Minutes of special meeting
29 November, 2011 At GSF Conservqtion Center



Meeting called to order by Chairman Thompson at 7:30 pm.

Present were : Marcia Kilpatrick, Wayne Kilpatrick, Bob Johnson, Everett Hyde, Deb Barton, Penny Newbury and Randy thompson. Absent were Phoebe Huang and Linda Gorman. Alternate Deb Barton was seated for Phoebe Huang.

Martha Frankel, Hampton Planning and Zoning ZEO started the meeting off by giving a presentation of land acquisition using state funding, as she had, until recently, been working in this area in Ct. DEEP. She handed out an outline of land acquisition components and programs, along with more information for us to look at later. She discussed three land acquisition programs and how to access them, and explained what people did at DEEP in the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program. The program of most interest to towns is the Open Space and Watershed Program that gives matching grants to towns to protect open space. Application dates change for each round of grants, and it may be necessary to contact people at DEEP to find out these dates, or when they may be announced. Usually the state awards 50% to 65% of the funds needed to purchase a particular parcel. She explained that political pressure is important in the acquisition process; meaning contacting Representatives, Selectmen etc., and getting letters of support from other intrested organizations in town and outside town. In reference to a particular property the HCC is currently interested in, she suggested we contact DEEP about its ranking and status. The HCC Chairman will gather questions members have regarding acquisition and he will give them to Martha. She may be able to find answers for us. Wayne Kilpatrick will write a letter for HCC to go to our State Representative and the town Selectmen regarding the Edwards property, asking for support with DEEP.

Acceptence of October minutes: Tabled to next meeting.

Audience for citizens: none.

Old Business:

1. Vadnais (Edwards) property update: Joann Freeman couldn't be here to talk about it with us, but Chairman Thompson, with her help, will compose a letter to Mr. Vadnais discussing what nearby towns have done in the way of acquiring property to protect as open space, and how the process may go in Hampton.

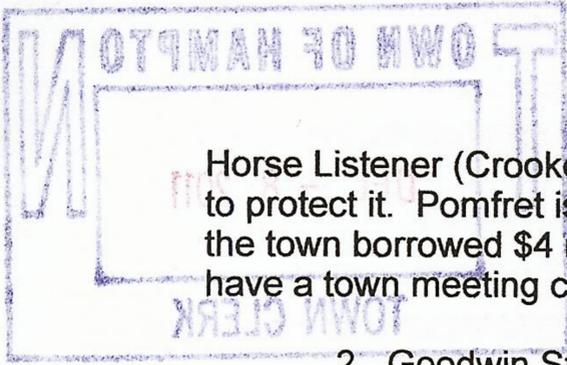
2. Invasive plant of the month: Japanese Honeysuckle. Can be a vine or shrub which goes to 30 feet in height and has little black berries, and white flowers which turn yellow.

3. Membership update: Deb Barton has beeb appointed by the Board of Selectmen and sworn in as an alternate on the HCC giving us a full roster.

4. Hampton Walks brochure update: Bob Johnson said the printing is done and the cover will be finished by the end of December.

New Business:

1. Update from members regarding survey of other towns' experience with purchasing properties. Conservation Commission members from these towns were contacted: The towns of Chaplin, Ashford, Willington, Eastford, Thompson and Pomfret. Each town has done some purchase of property or development rights. Eastford partnered with Willington to purchase a Boy Scout camp with pond. They borrowed money for this. Willington itself has purchased Rubey-Fenton Wildlife Refuge. Ashfrod purchased the development rights to Knowlton Farm and also



Horse Listener (Crooke Orchard). Thompson acquired a 13 acre environmentally sensitive area to protect it. Pomfret is in a world by itself. It has a pro-conservation minded 1st Selectman, and the town borrowed \$4 million for the purpose of purchasing land and development rights. They have a town meeting coming up in mid Dec. to vote on 5 purchases totaling about 250 acres.

2. Goodwin State Forest/ Conservation Center news. For 30 minutes prior to the start of out meeting, and during the meeting, Steve Brodrick talked about the history of GSF and gave us a tour of the many pictures showing the past history, as it is soon to celebrate 100 years of forest management. He talked about programs to be held there in the future. Many thanks to him for making the center available to us for this meeting.

Communications: HCC received a letter from Tom Gaines suggesting a resolution to offer for the annual town meeting in the spring, regarding setting aside \$30K annually for purchasing development rights. We will seriously consider this, and will discuss it at our next meeting.

Audience for citizens: Kevin Grindle, P&Z Chairman, mentioned we should bring our ideas to the attention of the new Board of Selectmen soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Thompson, Chairman.