

**Hampton Conservation Commission**  
Regular Meeting Wednesday July 19, 2023 6:30 PM Town Hall Meeting Room  
MINUTES

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Bruce Spaman, Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury, Karen Hamilton, Ev Hyde, Stan Crawford. Absent: Marc Cardwell. Audience members present: John Tillinghast, Selectman, Troop 1093 members Evelyn and Robert Rondeau and Nathan Bourassa.

**Audience for citizens:** Evelyn presented her proposed Eagle Scout project (benches for the Little River Preserve) and discussed number, materials and locations. The construction portion of the project would begin next summer. She was asked to keep track of all the hours she and any of her helpers spent on the project, including walking the property, searching for designs, etc. and give them to Mark Samios for use in the next DEEP grant application.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (June 21, 2023)**

**Motion made and seconded (Ev/Stan) to approve the minutes. Approved.**

**Additions to the Agenda**

none

**Old Business**

**Little River Updates**

Discussed maintenance plan; DPW was asked for a routine schedule to clear the brush from the river paths, but it will depend on their other priorities. Stan showed photos of benches he has already created; they will be permanently placed so discussion followed re: a need for an overall master plan of activities to be created at the next meeting. Agreed. Kevin will bring some basic drawings and outline the final location of the parking lot. In the meantime, **motion was made (Marcia/Mark) for Stan and Marc to site one of these benches at the far end of the field in the shade within 30 days. Approved.**

Stan has been working on kiosks; will make the Cohantic Ledge trail kiosk smaller. Sign for Cohantic Ledges trail is already up.

**Knotweed:**

Marcia gave an overview of who is cutting and where. Parker Road is still the main area of focus.

**Pollinator Pathways**

Marcia urged everyone to sign up on the CT website. Se has spoken to the Selectmen who have agreed to have a Hampton town page on the CT Pollinator Pathway website. After this is up we can put a list of all properties in Hampton that are part of the initiative.

**Roads and Trails Committee:** Ev Hyde, with citizen Kevin Grindle

Ev gave a report based on additional notes from Randy Thompson's archives. There had been an intention in 1969 to discontinue certain roads and use them for trails. Kevin and Ev will talk with the First Selectman about asking the Town attorney for a revised opinion of the advice he had provided 15 years ago, and how this affects our plans and whether based on a new review of the information if it is worthwhile for the HCC to pursue this. Discussed two potential roads as the first to be converted to trails. Discussion followed on possibility of getting the Antiquarian Society involved, and also how the trail(s) would be maintained.

**Membership**

The HCC reviewed the decision of the Commission revising the number of members to 9 (7 regular and 2 alternate). Mark will send a letter to the selectmen asking to alter the ordinance to reflect this. Meanwhile, Kevin Grindle will take steps to be appointed and sworn in as a new member.

**New Business**

None

**Audience For Citizens**

- John suggested having a bench at every entrance to the River at the Preserve and noted that 5 or 6 benches was appropriate for an Eagle Scout project.
- Kevin asked the group to begin to also think about the stewardship of the Pudding Hill Preserve and what opportunities it affords.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury  
Secretary