

HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 22, 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairman Wayne Kilpatrick at 7:35 p.m.
Also present: Co-chair Randy Thompson, Bob Johnson, Phoebe Huang, Marcia Kilpatrick, Everett Hyde and Joann Freeman

Minutes of January 25, 2011 meeting accepted after corrections were made regarding #2 under Old Business; Mr. Loiseau is asking for a \$250,000 sale price and for a \$400,000 assessment value for his property. Also #7; river erosion taking place along Little River off Sand Hill Rd. as included in past months minutes.

Audience: None

A presentation was offered by Hill Bullard on the intricacies of defining and differences between Abandoned vs. Discontinued roads. Mr. Bullard has helped to survey old roads in 10 towns in our area as a long time member and past President of Joshua's Trust. Also as an owner of land that has an old road on it. Much was discussed re: the history and definition and the original reason for roads. Short cuts for information gathering and case studies to pursue were given with other tidbits like the fact that towns have a liability on abandoned roads. He gave the commission articles, the "OLR Research Report" re: Local Road Abandonment and Abutting Property Owners and "The Highway and The Right of Way" to keep and use for the towns' purposes.

Old Business:

Walks/Walk Brochure: Bob and Phoebe to meet soon to start finalizing brochure. Next commission sponsored walk will be at the Preston Sanctuary on April 9, 2011 @ 9 a.m. Bob will get this into the Gazette.

Hampton Gazette articles: Joann submitted one re: Vernal Pools for April issue.

Proposed Advocate/HCC meeting to be shelved for now.

Forestry Staffing Letter: Wayne sent a letter addressing the severe funding cuts for forestry staff on behalf of the Windham County Conservation Commission Consortium. Replies were received from Mike Alberts, Don Williams, Senate President and Tony Gulemo who will look into the matter. Mr. Williams stated he'll try to keep the issue current for discussion. New DEP Commissioner Dan Estys is aware of these cuts.

Letter sent to Marion Halbach with information regarding conservation easements and related tax benefits.

Vadnais property: a walk will be done by this commission on Sunday, March 27, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. to assess the 50 acre parcel. Joann read a letter from the DEP stating they received the application made on behalf of the landowner for possible state purchase of his property. Consideration will be given and information assessed at this point.

New Business:

Marcia gave an overview of a GVI presentation held on February 28, 2011. Leo Smith from the Dark Sky Association talked about the negative aspects of today's over use of outdoor lighting and its impact. He suggested as a resource the book "Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting". It was voted on to seek reimbursement for the purchase of this book.

Invasive Plants Presentation: Given at the last Consortium Meeting. We discussed how to disseminate information about invasive plants. Phoebe suggested tackling just the most pervasive important ones, 1-3 plants, rather than all of them for educational purposes since most people don't have the time to address them all. Further discussion to take place.

Audience: None

Adjournment by Wayne at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by Joann Freeman, recording secretary