

Hampton Conservation Commission
April 26, 2011

Meeting called to order by Co-chairman Randy Thompson at 7:36 p.m. Also present: Everett Hyde, Bob Johnson, Phoebe Huang, and Dan Meade, seated for Marsha Kilpatrick.

Minutes of March 22, 2011 accepted by a vote of four to one. Dan Meade abstained for he was absent from the March 22 meeting.

Audience for citizens: Diane Meade

Old Business:

Walks in Hampton Brochure: Bob provided sample brochure text for four walks including Blue Flag Meadow, Preston Sanctuary, Otsby Preserve, and invited commission feedback on any specific points of interest that would differentiate one walk from the other –e.g., a beaver dam exists at Blue Flag. The text would describe length of walk and degree of difficulty. He mentioned there is also a good walk in Goodwin Forest; but that walk won't be included in this first effort

He and Phoebe met on April 25 to go over Bob's plans for the brochure. A fold-out design is envisioned with one panel devoted to each walk. Alongside a brief description would be a thumbnail map providing location of the walk, and the walk route. Also, where these would enhance the description, Bob's son has offered to take some photos.

Bob plans to have a mockup of the brochure for the next meeting and the full printed brochure by June. Copyright permission for existing map material may need to be secured. Phoebe will contact Joshua's Trust.

Forestry staffing: Steve Broderick's letter was discussed. This letter explains that the proper management of state forests would create revenue; whereas, no management incurs a cost. It was observed that even if funding were provided for staffing by Hartford (the General Fund), these would come out of the DEP budget and the revenues would not be returned to the DEP.

Vadnias Property: This is the best of the four properties the commission has looked at recently - bordered on two sides by public lands. If the state were to buy it, the state would pay for a survey. Status with the state is pending.

Loiselle Property: The only access to this property is 1 mile up Parker Road. That presents a problem. The property does, however, include a vernal pool. Joshua's Trust has looked at the property and will deliberate whether to pursue this further.

Vernal pool walk: Juan Sanchez led the walk, in Chaplin. It was attended by roughly 10 people. Participants found it very interesting. Two vernal pools exist at the property, side-by-side - each with its own unique eco-system.

New Business

Nick Bellantoni presentation: roughly 30 people attended. Nick led off by describing his role as state archaeologist and gave examples of work he has done. The presentation was found to be interesting.

Invasive plants: The commission looked at Marsha's sample of garlic mustard. Dan suggested that if the commission is going to educate the public on attempting to eliminate one species, we choose something that is creating a serious problem and can actually be managed. This includes invasive species that are clogging waterways. Phoebe noted that garlic mustard is so pervasive - growing along every road in Hampton - that it would be hard for the commission to launch a focused, effective effort.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Bob made a motion to adjourn, Dan seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Submitted by Phoebe Huang, acting recording secretary