

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 6:30pm

Minutes

Members present: Mark Samios, Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury, Marc Cardwell, Ev Hyde, Kevin Grindle, Bruce Spaman

Audience: Gareth Carter, new to Hampton, interested in various Town Commissions and groups

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Minutes of December 2024 **approved** (Marc/Ev).

Additions: Divine time to De-Vine our Forest: Marcia
Bird Survey at LRP
Tree planting in memory of Randy Thompson

Old Business

2024/25 Budget: We have \$17,000 to spend but they spent about \$2,030 on the project. Jonah has some leftover wood that we can use for sign posts; Marc will store in his barn, along with excess kiosk lumber.

- There will be @ \$1,300 in lawn cutting during the spring, and commitments to put up signs for fishing resources(@\$500). Money has to be spent by 7/1/25.
- We have an agreement with Keith for about \$4,000 for cutting brush at LRP; Marc suggested working on getting rid of the knotweed as well; Keith is in agreement.
- Marcia reminded the group that it has to be done twice more, and then repeat for 3 years. Suggestion was to have that amount as a rolling expense in the budget, and we can use it for maintenance on the area that needs the most work.
- Ev suggested putting money in for conferences this year. (\$300).
- Marc suggested trail marking signs for road trails and other trails (\$1,000)
- Cohantic trail clearing and need to establish parking area: Marc spoke with Keith about the tree clearing for \$1,500, but will double check regarding the removal of the logs and clearing for parking.
- Penny will call the abutter to see if we can get an easement to do a small amount of parking.
- Arbor Day trees and tree and plaque for Randy at LRP: (\$400, possibly river birch) Bruce also brought up the need to have a future pan for tree planting in town (type of trees, location, native vs specimen, etc.)
- Bird Survey: Andy R. from Audubon (\$250)
- Bird blind (Marc will produce bird blind plan for the next meeting)
- Signage for roads to trails: Ev will provide a road list for next month's meeting.

Dirt Pile: It has disappeared; no one knows where. Discussion re: the need for selectmen to advise the HCC of activities that are or will be happening at LRP, since the HCC is the steward of open space, including the LRP, in town.

Eagle Scout Project Update: Marc gave overview; a photo with caption will be in the Gazette. Discussion re: need for plaque recognizing Jonah and his efforts (Marc will ask Joh T. what should go on the plaque), also need for more directional signage to fishing/viewing areas along the river.

Little River Project Update: Kevin reported that the draft contract was approved at the 1/6 meeting, and within 2 weeks the final design process of the project will begin.

New Business

De-Vining: Marcia suggested removal of vines at the river opening at LRP to clear the invasives off the cherry trees. Discussion re: putting this in the maintenance/clearing allocation for this and future years.

Cohantic Trail clearing: discussion on feasibility of providing off-street parking in the 25-foot right of way, especially given that the entrance is off of a state highway. Penny will check with property owner to the south to see if he is interested in granting a small easement. Marc has talked to Keith about preliminary clearing (see above).

2025/26 Budget: The Chair asked for input into items to request for the 25/26 fiscal year. Standing items were discussed (Maintenance and perimeter clearing at LRP, conferences, Arbor Day, etc.) as well as bird blind, signage, roads-to-trails activities.

- **Motion made (Ev/Penny)** to allow Kevin to research the cost involved in hiring a consultant to determine ownership of one chosen road.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Newbury, Secretary