

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2024
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Bruce Spaman, Ev Hyde, Keving Grindle, Marc Cardwell, Marcia Kilpatrick, Penny Newbury. Selectmen present: Allan Cahill, John Tillinghast

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Cardwell/Spaman).

Additions to the agenda: Bird blind update

Audience For Citizens: David Heald, Engineer for the proposed Reilly Road Conservation subdivision, introduced himself. The Commission was not made aware that he would be attending, but agreed to move the respective agenda item to the beginning of Old Business.

Old Business

Reilly Rd. Subdivision: Mr. Heald presented plans for the subdivision and answered the Commission's questions regarding boundaries, driveways, and stipulations of the easement. It was understood that the easement would be part of the adjacent lot owner's property, and that the Town would have the authority to regularly monitor the easement to ensure the protection of the delineated area. After review of the plan, the HCC agreed that it met the objectives of the subdivision regulations, and stipulated that plans would not be filed until conservation easement markers are placed at a uniform distance along the easement line to ensure that current and subsequent owners know exactly where the easement boundary is located.

Little River Grant Update: Kevin reported that there is no update regarding funds disbursement as of yet. He will have the kiosk map ready for printing and the visit from Sen. Gordon on 7/31. He will also share a boardwalk vendor list with the HCC.

2023/24 Budget: As the gates to the Preserve were slightly over the estimated cost, we have spent \$200 over our budget; this will come out of this year's allocation.

Natural Resource Inventory: Marcia presented an inventory that she completed with several community volunteers, emphasizing that it is a citizens' inventory, not a scientific one. To date they have catalogued birds and fish. Andy Reznickiewicz will conduct one for insects, plants and animals for \$250, although a DEEP representative visited the site with Marcia and they focused on plants. Bruce is still working on the tree/shrub inventory. Amphibians and reptiles have not been inventories. Marcia will forward her survey results to the HCC.

Maintenance: There was a broad discussion of LRP maintenance, both immediate and long-term. Two audience members confirmed that the trails are overgrown. John will contact the Town's lawn care person to see if he can provide an estimate for routine maintenance after it is easily mowable. Kevin reminded the group that there is also money in the grant for brush cutting. Marc suggested a work party to clear the paths to the river.

Trail marking for Roads: Mark will ask DOC for a price on metal signs. Bruce suggested Voss signs of New York. <https://vosssigns.com/>

New Business

Additional fencing: Bids are being reviewed.

Hampton Connections: Joan Fox gave an overview of a ton newsletter starting up, and asked the HCC to contribute an article on the history of the acquisition of the LRP and its volunteers. Since the first issue's deadline was quite soon, the HCC asked to be part of the second issue, which will be published in September.

2024/25 Budget: A short discussion ensued.

Bird Blind: Marc reported his discussions with a contractor who looked at the site, and proposed an 8x6 blind with ramp, bench, opening for wheelchair and set on concrete piers. If it can be delivered via truck the price is \$5,300. It was agreed that the HCC should obtain other bids.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury
Secretary