

Hampton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Mark Samios. Members present: Bruce Spaman, Marcia Kilpatrick, Ev Hyde, Marc Cardwell, Penny Newbury. Absent: Kevin Grindle. Members from the community: John Tillinghast, Selectman, and representatives from the Eagle Scouts.

Additions to the agenda: Riley Rd. Subdivision update; CIPWG symposium; DEEP report on LRP

Audience for Citizens:

Eagle Scout Evelyn Rondeau presented her plan to construct four benches, with a preliminary price list. It was agreed that the HCC would contribute \$250 towards materials; Evelyn was asked, however, to get an updated price list for pressure-treated materials. She agreed to fundraise the additional needed funds by fall, with the intent to start construction in the spring. She will meet with Marc to take a walk at the preserve to determine placement. She will also label the benches as done by her as part of her eagle Scout project.

Motion made (Ev/Marcia) to appropriate \$250 for the four benches. **Approved.**

Eagle Scout Jonah Milynec discussed his plans for footbridges over the wet areas on the trails. He will meet with Marc to visit the property and discuss materials needed.

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting on 7/17/24: **Motion made** (Marcia/Mark) to approve the minutes with the following changes:

- LRP inventory should read “plants, birds, fish, insects, animals”
- The DEEP rep’s name (Jane Seymour) should be noted
- Andy Rzeznikiewicz will conduct a paid bird inventory if the HCC requests it

Approved.

Old Business

Little River Preserve Grant Update: no word, due to Kevin’s absence; he had informed the HCC that he was still working on the LRP map. Marc reported that DEEP has postponed the fish count till the river is lower. They will, however, stock the river and pond with trout in the fall.

LRP Natural Resource Inventory update: Bruce will complete the tree inventory by September 3.

Maintenance at LRP: Wayne Henri has agreed to mow the paths every 2 weeks and will submit a bill to the Town, which will come out of the HCC budget. The HCC thanked John T. for coordinating this.

Roads project and trail marking: After discussion of how to mark roadway trails, it was decided to use Jericho Road as the “pilot” road in which signage will be posted at the entrances to the road with rules, and trail markers placed at intervals. Mark will get the prices for the trailhead signs.

New Business

Hampton Harvest festival (September 21): Marc will man a table from 9am-30m. Discussion of what to have/promote at the table. There will be a copy of Kevin’s map of the LRP, a completed natural resource inventory, and additional materials. It is hoped that more info re: the grant will have been shared by that time.

Motion made (Marc/Ev) to participate in the Festival and pay the \$15 fee to secure a booth. **Approved.**

Retrieval of constructed bench from Stan Crawford's house: Bruce will call Stan to let him know that we can move it with a trailer, but are waiting to get the final map to make sure that it will be placed correctly (along with the other benches). Will ask if we can wait a month. Marc will call Kathy Thompson also regarding her stone bench donation.

Additions to the Agenda

DEEP Field Walk notes from Jane Seymour, wildlife biologist: During a walk with Marcia, she created a list of recommendations for invasive removal, stream protection, etc, as well as creating a list of animals, birds and plants viewed that day. Since the HCC received the notes a short time before the meeting, it was agreed that we could discuss them further at the next meeting. Marcia will ask the First Selectman about the use of the hay that is cut from the field.

CIPW invasive plant symposium on 10/29: the cost is \$75 if paid by 9/20. The HCC agreed to decide at the next meeting (9/18) if attendance was desired.

Reilly Rd. subdivision update: Ev reported on the final meeting held with P&Z and outlined the benefits of a conservation subdivision. Changes in the plan included slightly more land placed in the conservation easement.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Newbury, Secretary