

HBAC Draft Minutes: 1/30/2020

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Town of Hampton

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by chair Nancy Stiles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance



NH Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources

Attending:

Commissioners:

Nancy Stiles, Town of Hampton and Chair

Rick Griffin, Board of Selectmen Representative

Barbara Kravitz, RPC representative

Michael Housman, NH Dept Natural & Cultural Resources

Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce

Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District

Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District

also attending:

Jason Bachand, Town Planner

Ann Carnaby, meeting assistant



Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce

Not present:

Dean Merrill, Member at Large and Vice Chair

Bill Watson, NH Dept. of Transportation



Rockingham Planning Commission

Public Comment related to agenda items:

none

Appointments: Hampton's state legislators reporting on upcoming legislation that may have an impact on Hampton/Hampton beach no matter the sponsor:

Sen. Tom Sherman

- A study committee is being formed look at the sources of income throughout the state - especially the seacoast - to look at distribution in a focused way to be more fair
- off shore wind generation - this will impact many aspects - fisheries, tourists, visual impact to residents - we need consistent impact - there is a 3 state task force to study

- derelict debris (on our beaches) there is a commission to study - 80% is NOT from fishermen - it is cigarette butts & other debris, not lobster traps & other fishing gear that can only be touched by the fishermen. The big ? is how do we change the culture to want to keep beaches clean - there will be a report in March
- SB 604 is prime sponsor to rename the new courthouse for our judges - Al Casassa & Whitey Frasier
- SB 308 creates a housing board of appeals which removes local control of zoning decisions - the bill was heard in the house & went straight to budget - house never saw it - NHMA took no position - it was passed & signed but he governor. There is a 1 year delay in enactment - Martha Fuller Clark has a bill that repeals and replaces this one - expects the senate & house will probably repeal it.
- ? from C Rage - the village district hasn't seen any \$\$ from the state in a few years – the senator will look into that and get back to him.
- the senate passed 24 - 0 a bill to fix medicaid for schools; 200 thousand to Hampton broken down to \$108k to Winnacunnet & \$94k to hampton schools

R Griffin offers thanks for his service & efforts

Rep. Pat Bushway

- serves on Resources, Recreation & Development Committee

1. HB1124 looks at identifying prime wetlands & developing a clearer definition. this will let us better identify smaller areas that didn't previously qualify as prime.
2. HB 324 limits use of jet skis in the estuary - there's another similar bill for Rye and Newcastle -
3. HB 1252 provides adequate review & testing of water sources of replacement wells before contamination happens to prevent impact on the water system
4. HB 1347 does same for condos
5. HSB 629 establishes a solid waste reduction, diversion and management fund with a surcharge to municipalities, to then be paid back to defer costs & maybe create a regional recycling plant
6. off-highway RV's are a huge issue in the north country and there are lots of bills; pertinent to us may require a fee for cleanup by a club if it requests use of an area that includes a rail trail in case the use by these vehicles stirs up contaminants or hazardous materials in the rail trail areas.
7. is working with Sen Sherman on funding issues between our town & beach
 - all our reps to Concord are on a Seacoast Drinking water commission to deal with issues of Pfas, continuing the work of Reps Cushing, Edgar, and Mesmer to set new, safer levels of Pfas - the manufacturer (3M) has filed suit - Sen Sherman has inserted these new levels into SB 287 - Aquarion's levels are compliant with the new standard. New levels endorsed by Morse, Bradley, Sherman, Waters, & Fuller Clark. The manufacturers knew as early as the 1950's that their products were toxic yet did nothing. it can be over \$1B to clean up NH. The

state is moving ahead with a law suit against the manufacturers. the new bill containing the new levels will be fast-tracked to the House - it will be a funded mandate.

R Griffin - thanks for what they all do - especially for looking after the property rights of owners of prime wetlands & invited her to present this accurate information to the Board of Selectmen

Rep Renney Cushing

- a. HB 1603 commits the state to establish a fund for using the funds awarded via the suit of the manufacturers of Pfas in cleaning up the damage done, this bill passed out of subcommittee yesterday (1/29/20) in a bipartisan effort
- b. bureau of offshore management - there is offshore wind waiting to be tapped - the area off our area of the Atlantic has power comparable to Saudi Arabia - a wind farm out there can result in new industries such as "wind watching" cruises similar to "whale watching" cruises. The visual provided can be compared to windmills in Netherlands & lighthouses along our coast, and can be just as controversial. the technology is advancing fast - there are now both stationary and floating turbines - it has been determined that the "sweet" winds (most powerful) are very far off shore - 4 years ago it was recommended that the governor convene a study to the possibility of wind farms in the Gulf of Maine - last year the governor began a 3 state group composed of all the stakeholders including commercial fishermen, tourism, shipping, defense & others to identify a desirable locus offshore for what can become a new industry somewhere between Cape Ann north to Bar Harbor where non-polluting electricity can be made available. Considerations include the life-span of the turbines and a decommissioning program for them, the depth of the Gulf of Maine (most turbines will probably be floating), look at the readiness of the educational system to supply skilled workers, etc

N Stiles asks if NH will get any of this electricity from these or will we just look at them? answer - the task force will examine all aspects of this "new industry" - Eversource is now the most interested in wind energy

- other bills SB 668 & SB 712 re: fishing gear

- a. HB-1269 under criminal justice and public safety looks at historical injustices with an eye to establishing a mechanism for posthumously recognizing and exonerating people who were unjustly accused and punished. He is considering Eunice "Goody" Cole to be included because of "the awfulness of what she was done to her".

Rep Tom Loughman

- was unable to attend and sent a summary of his efforts - (attachment B - Loughman)

Rep Jason Janvrin

- represents Seabrook, Hampton Falls & Hampton

- HB 480 (is this number complete?) the sports betting law has passed and requires municipal adoption - the Open Gaming casino is a candidate for the sports betting activity in Hampton
- he learned a lot about the hazards of jet skis in the marsh of both Hampton & Seabrook from the conservation commissions of both towns. And earlier restriction was only enforceable by marine patrol officials or state police - new bill is enforceable by any law enforcement officer
- HB 1470 he introduced with school children to get the red tailed hawk named as the state bird - during this process he learned that school kids were making maple syrup which was very good, but they couldn't sell it, so he introduced another bill so that school kids can make and sell maple syrup with all the proceeds earmarked for schools.

Rep Mike Edgar

Presented an outline of legislative activity he has been working on that relates to Hampton/Hampton Beach.

HB 2020 is the Transportation Ten Year Plan (TYP)

- there will be a public hearing in March

- it includes \$43.7 M for the Seabrook - Hampton Bridge & \$9.6 M for Ocean Blvd to High St for preliminary engineering

- the big question is how/where the bridge will meet Ocean Blvd

- notes that 20% matching \$\$ from the town are required for the Winnacunnet Rd project
- the rail trail is included for Seabrook but the section from Seabrook over the marsh to Hampton isn't included in this 10 year plan
- notes that the dredging that was done was an emergency dredge to make it deep enough so that fishermen, etc could go where they needed, and that a study of the changing flow of Seabrook harbor since it is the only location deep enough for the offloading of the heavy equipment needed for the construction

B Kravitz points out that that the estimated start time of 10 year projects is helpful for the towns

R Cushing asks what is on the HBACs' Wish List?

N Stiles responds that if they get everything they've reviewed tonight done then that would be very OKAY!

- T Sherman asks that he & M Edgar keep informed about all the little interim "fixes" for road needs - discussion of an interim report re: the most prevalent pollutant on our beaches is CIGARETTE BUTTS and that a ban on smoking on the beach be further considered - similar state legislation is being considered including a public awareness campaign dealing with cigarette butts being thrown out car windows ending up clogging storm drains in our roads
- notes that the "Bobby Preston" bill changes the rule that a representative of the recipient organization in charitable gaming must be present every day that charity

is benefitting that organization to the rule that a representative need only show up once a period of benefitting - it will help.

B Ladd asks if there is any pending legislation concerning sea level rise ?

R Cushing - some - concerning limiting fossil fuel use, requiring high school curricula to add climate change content, consider the storage of electricity, net metering, and there is also significant pushback in Concord regarding climate change!

N Stiles - THANKS to our Delegation!

Adoption of minutes 10/24/2019 meeting

moved by C Rage, seconded by B Kravitz
unanimous approval - Ladd abstained

Treasurer's report - Housman

account balance \$6,767.12

CHAT Update - B Kravitz

represented HBAC for first time to CHAT, which stands for Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team
- this group is a subsidiary of SHEA, which is the Seabrook Hampton Estuary Alliance
- their outcomes will be of great benefit
- there will be a one year report out in March
- they received a grant from Lincoln Financial to hire an expert to lead the process to understand the flooding we are having
- there is a 3 year effort working with DES water pollution division to locate & evaluate all culverts that need help, study resilient tidal stream crossings, migration, possible effects of sea level rise
- it is all very technical

B Ladd - meeting of the precinct at the Beach firehouse March 16 re: SHEA, CHAT & coastal hazards team

N Stiles thanks for report & asks B Kravitz to continue to represent HBAC to this group; & report on March meeting - Kravitz agrees

Master Plan Subcommittee

C Rage replaces R Griffin - J Bachand will provide update

Review Committee

C Rage no activity

Old Business

1. fund raiser update - need to upgrade applications submitted last year
discussion of opportunities to qualify as a 502C3 recipient of funding from Ocean Gaming
2. CEDS application update – an update to the application will be filed.
3. here is activity on the installation ADA approved of curb cuts on Rte 1A \$1M was added to 10 year plan to do the length from High St to the bridge; \$1.4M added for engineering.

Total Rte 1A upgrade in today's money estimated at \$35M. We have \$9M allocated now, and are still dealing with some historic & cultural aspects of old bridge - we could put a piece on display at stater park or leave a section of it on place as a demonstration

New Business

REDC - CEDS Planning Process meetings (attachment C - Kravitz)

Regional Economic Development Center is developing 5 year economic development strategy for the area - Community Economic Development Strategy

- there will be 4 visioning sessions - first is in Hampton next Tuesday at Galley Hatch @ 5pm
key factor is a priority listing of goals for each area

Discussion - wind turbines off the coast (attachment D - Rice)

N Stiles - are we ready to make recommendations?

B Preston - No - we need to see what the fishermen think; we should monitor related bills in the legislature, learn what the Chamber of Commerce thinks; need to know more about many aspects of this

Reminder of Hampton Deliberative session on Sat. Feb 1 at 8:30AM in the Academy auditorium

Next meeting: Thursday, March 26 7PM in Selectmen's meeting room

Adjourn at: 9:30 PM

motion by: B Kravitz

second: by: R Griffin

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carnaby, meeting assistant