

**Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

1 **Present:** **Jay Diener, Chair**
2 **Barbara Renaud, Vice-Chair**
3 **Pete Tilton**
4 **Diane Shaw**
5 **Pat Swank**
6 **Sharon Raymond**
7 **Deborah Wrobel, Alternate**

8
9 **Also Present: Rayann Dionne, Conservation Coordinator**

10
11 **I. Call to Order:**

12 The meeting was called to order by Chair Diener at 6:58 PM in the Town Hall Selectmen’s
13 Meeting Room. Chair Diener noted Alternate Deborah Wrobel would be active.

14 **II. Review Minutes**

15 **1. January 28, 2020**

16 **MOTION:** Ms. Shaw motioned to approve the January 28, 2020 with the edits provided.

17 **SECOND:** Mr. Tilton seconded the motion.

18 **VOTE:** 5-0-2 (Chair Diener and Ms. Raymond abstained) **MOTION PASSED**

19
20 **III. Appointments**

21 1. 64 & 68 Mooring Drive – proposed retaining wall

22 Eric Salovitch with TF Moran presented the proposed plans for a retaining wall at 64 & 66
23 Mooring Drive. There was a Site Walk on Saturday. Mr. Salovitch indicated the concrete wall
24 to the rear of the property was originally proposed between Hobson & Manchester Street. After
25 conversations with Ms. Dionne and the State, the owners decided to go with a toe stone
26 protection idea which would be boulders 2-3’ in diameter dug 1’ down. There would be recast
27 sand between the boulders and vegetation behind the stones.

28 Mr. Tilton noted the stones should be rounded to allow the passage of water in and out and not
29 be square or edgy rocks.

30 Ms. Swank indicated she was not at the Site Walk Saturday and asked if during a King Tide
31 event if the water would go up and over and Mr. Savage indicated yes based on the estimated
32 tides 2’ SLR 2050 data. Ms. Swank noted the plants should be able to tolerate saltwater.

33 Ms. Wrobel noted this was a better proposal than a solid wall.

34 Vice-Chair Renaud thanked Mr. Salovitch for being receptive to ideas on Saturday.

35 Chair Diener agreed that it fits the landscape design.

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36 Ms. Shaw noted it was a nice approach.

37 Ms. Dionne indicated there were a lot of walls nearby in failing or poor condition and this
38 proposal would last longer. Concrete and saltwater don't mix well.

39 Chair Diener noted the application would have good support here if it comes in for a permit.

40 **IV. Applications**

41 **V. New Business**

42 1. Conservation Land donation – Map 226 Lot 3 & Map 286 Lot 8 (salt marsh) and Map 10 Lot
43 1 (Old Swamp – north of Route 101)

44

45 Ms. Dionne handed out copies of plans showing the donated parcels: 226-3 by the Taylor River,
46 268-8 which is adjacent to the Police Department and Brown Avenue and 10-1 which is off
47 Route 101.

48

49 Ms. Dionne indicated the parcel was within a family and inherited by the children who donated
50 three parcels.

51

52 **MOTION:** Vice-Chair Renaud motioned to accept the donation and move forward with the
53 Town Attorney to draft the deed.

54 **SECOND:** Mr. Tilton seconded the motion

55 **VOTING:** 6-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained)

MOTION PASSED

56

57 2. HCC elections in March

58 Chair Diener indicated there will be an election of officers, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk next
59 month.

60

61 3. SHEA Local Master Plan and Zoning Screening

62 Ms. Dionne passed out copies of slides from SHEA presentation at last week's Planning Board
63 meeting. SHEA received a grant from the NH Charitable Fund to assist with the audit of the
64 Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances in Hampton, Hampton Falls & Seabrook, the three towns
65 surrounding the estuary.

66

67 The first step is to develop the management plan for the estuary which can become an addendum
68 to each Town's Master Plan. The purpose of the estuary management plan is to provide a
69 uniform approach across all three communities for preserving and protecting the estuary, wildlife
70 issues, habitat, and recreation. This is not intended to replace the Master Plan but to work in
71 concert with it.

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73 Other research is being reviewed such as the Tides & Storm Report from RPC (Rockingham
74 Planning Commission), the Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership, and the Coastal Risks
75 Report. Ms. Dionne sent a link to the data which is rich with information and encouraged the
76 members to take a look and review what Hampton has, and what it would like to incorporate.
77

78 Ms. Dionne provided a copy of a table that described the estuary and where the information
79 showed up in the Master Plan with seven categories to review for similarities and differences
80 with other towns.

81
82 Ms. Dionne noted Slide 8 represents major findings by the consultant. The Master Plan is
83 starting to get old and outdated and the timing for this is good now.

84
85 Ms. Dionne noted Slide 10 is Zoning Review and what relates to the estuary and variations.

86
87 Ms. Dionne noted the next steps would be to finalize the plan. The Planning Board reviewed it
88 last week. Seabrook will be next week and Hampton Falls in two more weeks.

89
90 Mr. Diener indicated the timeline for the visionary work would be mid-summer with input
91 sessions to get a sense of municipal surveys.

92

93 **VI. Old Business**

94 1. 2020 Warrant Articles

95 Ms. Raymond noted the Warrant Article funding the Master Plan update is coming up and Jason
96 has drafted the scope of work. A lot of people don't understand the RFP. The surveys have
97 some flaws with no control over who is taking it, it could be residents or people from out of the
98 country.

99

100 2. Natural Resource Inventory

101 Chair Diener indicated Amanda Stone with the UNH Cooperative Extension met last week and
102 shared ideas with the first subcommittee meeting. Funding for completion of the NRI of \$5,000-
103 \$6,000 should come from the Town's Conservation Fund. The RSA language should be
104 reviewed when the fund was established it noted use was for conservation land acquisition. The
105 language could be amended.

106 Vice-Chair Renaud recommended using the operating account instead. Chair Diener agreed
107 Vice-Chair Renaud's suggestion was preferable.

108 Ms. Dionne noted the summer internship advertisement will be going out and a good job was
109 done on monitoring last year and wondered if the intern could work on updating the Granit GIS
110 layer this year. Bachelor Farm is a larger parcel that doesn't show up and the ARM Fund relies
111 upon that layer so it is worth updating.

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112 The Commission was okay with Ms. Dionne tweaking the posting for the intern.

113 3. Coastal Hazards Master Plan Chapter - update

114 **VII. Conservation Coordinator and Chair update**

115 Ms. Dionne noted 55 Harbor Street will be back to discuss stormwater outfall.

116 Ms. Dionne updated discussions with Recreation concerning a possible pump track near the
117 Transfer Station on the Campbell property. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed. The
118 National Mountain Biking Association could be involved in the plans for the Campbell property.
119 Mr. Tilton noted Conservation contributed funds to Recreation to purchase that property so it
120 would be a good fit. Vice-Chair Renaud was in favor of building better relationships with
121 Recreation. Conservation provides the walking trails at the Town Forest and Recreation provides
122 the sports.

123 Ms. Dionne indicated focus should be on getting the trails done this year.

124 Mr. Tilton observed survey tape southeast of the Perkins property.

125 Ms. Dionne indicated she received a thank you note from Piscataqua Regional Monitoring for
126 the \$1,000 donation.

127 Ms. Dionne thanked everyone who helped with the rain barrels. The same vendors are interested
128 in donating. The High School Sustainability Club and Academy will do the painting. The Plant
129 Sale will be before Mother's Day and barrels will be displayed at Town Hall. The paint and
130 sealant were donated. The donations can be used to match grants for the estuary management
131 plan.

132 **MOTION:** Vice-Chair Renaud motioned to allow the donations of rain barrel paint and sealant
133 as matching funds for the estuary management grant for the estuary management plan.

134 **SECOND:** Ms. Raymond seconded the motion

135 **VOTING:** 6-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained) **MOTION PASSED**

136 Ms. Dionne indicated she received a request from James Heiss of the NH Coastal Program to
137 place sensors in a couple of locations to take salinity measurements during high tides. Ms.
138 Wrobel asked if he was drilling holes and Ms. Dionne indicated there would be small 2"
139 monitoring wells. Ms. Wrobel warned that drilling can introduce saltwater to fresh by breaking
140 the barrier.

141 Chair Diener reminded everyone to get out and vote at Town Meeting and that officer elections
142 are next month.

143 **VIII. Adjourn**

144 **MOTION:** Ms. Swank motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM.

145 **SECOND:** Ms. Raymond seconded the motion.

146 **VOTE:** 6-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained) **MOTION PASSED**

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148 Respectfully submitted,

149 Nancy J. Hoijer,

150 Recording Secretary