

**Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

1 **Present:** **Jay Diener, Chair**
2 **Pete Tilton**
3 **Sharon Raymond**
4 **Pat Swank**
5 **Bob Fox, Alternate**
6 **Deborah Wrobel, Alternate**
7

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

10 **I. Call to Order:**

11 The meeting was called to order by Chair Diener at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Selectmen’s Meeting
12 Room. Chair Diener noted Ms. Wrobel and Mr. Fox would be active for this meeting.

13 **II. Review Minutes**

14 **1.** November 26, 2019

15 **MOTION:** Ms. Swank motioned to approve the November 26, 2019 minutes, with the edits
16 provided.

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

18 **VOTE:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained)

MOTION PASSED

19 **III. Appointments**

20 **IV. Applications**

21 **1. Park Ave Culvert Replacement Ater-the-Fact NHDES Minimum Impact Permit**

22 **Owner:** Town of Hampton

23 **Agent:** Tighe & Bond

24

25 Work approved under an Emergency Authorization by NHDES Phase I involved constructing twin 24”
26 culverts just west of the Tuck Museum entrance under Park Ave. Phase II replaced the existing 36”
27 culvert that conveys a stream under the parking lot access drive with a new 36” HDPE culvert. The
28 access drive was widened to allow 2-way traffic. In-kind replacement of the 57” x 38” arch culvert that
29 crosses under Park Ave.

30

31 Ms. Dionne provided photos and described the three culverts running east to west on Park Ave which
32 received emergency authorization from DES. Chair Diener noted the third emptied into a pretty big
33 swale.

34

35 Ms. Swank asked if they were having trouble before and Ms. Dionne indicated there were issues with
36 the undersized culvert.

37

38 Ms. Raymond noted HDPE stands for high-density polyethylene.

**Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

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40 **MOTION:** Mr. Tilton motioned to recommend approval of the After-the-Fact NHDES Minimum Impact
41 Permit for culvert replacement on Park Ave.
42

43 **SECOND:** Ms. Wrobel seconded the motion.

44 **VOTE:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained) **MOTION PASSED**

45 **V. New Business**

46 **1.** RSA 41:14-a Proceedings – 2 17th Street – the release of Town-owned deed restrictions
47

48 Ms. Dionne indicated the RSA is the process of amending a deed restriction. The parcel in question was
49 previously town leased plan. The Commission reviewed this request almost a year ago and at that time
50 they did not recommend it because based on the Town’s Assessing information the property exceeded
51 the maximum impervious coverage. The addition of a new shed would further that exceedance. The
52 land survey that was provided demonstrates that the existing site conditions plus the new shed will be
53 under the impervious coverage maximum.
54

55 **MOTION:** Mr. Tilton motioned to send a letter stating the Commission has no objections with the
56 deed restriction modification for 2 17th Street.
57

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

59
60 **VOTING:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained) **MOTION PASSED**
61

62 **2.** NH Association of Conservation Commission – annual due request
63

64 Ms. Dionne indicated this was the first year NHACC was offering a member introductory rate with a
65 \$200 donation. Previously dues were \$700-800 a year. Mr. Tilton noted the membership was valuable.
66 Chair Diener agreed it was a good service, with legislative information and \$200 is reasonable. The
67 Commission should take advantage of the opportunities that come with membership such as seminars
68 and attendance at the annual meeting in November.
69

70 **MOTION:** Mr. Tilton motioned to make a \$200 donation to NH Association of Conservation
71 Commission.
72

73 **SECOND:** Ms. Swank seconded the motion.
74

75 **VOTING:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained) **MOTION PASSED**
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78 **3.** Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance – Conservation Land project

79

80 Ms. Dionne indicated the project entails making a list of privately owned parcels in or adjacent to the
81 salt marsh and drafting letters to property owners such as they did with the Town forest project which
82 was a success.

83

84 Ms. Dionne noted the information collected included the owner(s) names, acreage, assessed value, and
85 type of ownership or easement or partial easement as with a house lot.

86

87 Ms. Dionne indicated they went to the Hampton Falls Conservation Commission who were supportive
88 and are hoping the summer intern would be interested. SHEA meets beginning in March, every other
89 month.

90

91 Chair Diener noted there is no cost to prioritize which parcels are worthy to go after.

92

93 **MOTION:** Ms. Swank motioned to have SHEA provide information concerning parcels that are most
94 worthy of being acquired.

95

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

97

98 **VOTING:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained)

MOTION PASSED

99

100 **VI. Old Business**

101 1. 2020 Warrant Articles

102 Ms. Dionne recapped the December Planning Board meeting. There was a presentation on the highest
103 observable tide line and mitigation definition.

104 Ms. Dionne noted they did not move forward with the Article for repair and replacement of a structure
105 in the buffer and it appears they did not understand the Article despite attempts to explain. Mr. Diener
106 noted that the way the regulation is worded now they can't go deeper but there is nothing about going
107 across. Trying to tighten the language and not increase square footage. Ms. Dionne indicated they
108 would try again next year.

109 Ms. Dionne noted at tomorrow night's meeting they will discuss the definition for impervious surface
110 and removal of the wetland conservation district language and section 2.3.3. concerning decks.

111 Ms. Raymond noted the primary building setback which is 12' in the wetland ordinance which will be
112 cross-referenced in the dimensional table.

113 2. Ice Pond Kiosk construction

114 Mr. Diener indicated the Kiosk is finished, the sign is printed and hung up. The NH District Historic
115 Resource Registration of Historic Places required the history of the pond which is on two signs. Ms.
116 Dionne provided photos.

Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

117 3. Natural Resource Inventory

118 Ms. Dionne indicated there will be an RFP at some point concerning the Natural Resource Inventory and
119 questioned whether setting up a sub-committee would expedite the work to be done. Amanda Stone is
120 working with the Town to assist with this through June. Ms. Dionne indicated she is not sure what is
121 lacking but some samples were sent for the Commission to review, which were uploaded to the website.

122 Chair Diener indicated approval of having a smaller group meet and report back to the Commission.
123 Chair Diener noted it has been ten years since it was updated and asked if anyone indicated any interest
124 in serving on the subcommittee and begin by identifying sections that are missing and send an outline to
125 the consultant. Mr. Tilton noted he would be interested. Ms. Wrobel and Ms. Swank indicated they
126 would be interested. Chair Diener noted he would be interested.

127 Mr. Fox noted the Commission should guide the consultant to what we want or it could get expensive
128 and recommended having a good outline.

129 Ms. Dionne indicated the homework for the Commission would be to read some of the samples to see
130 what we like and want to see and then schedule a meeting and meet with the consultant to see how to
131 proceed.

132 4. Town Forest Activities

133 Mr. Tilton noted there has been an uptick in activity with bike ramps, jumps, and pits being built.

134 Ms. Dionne indicated she and Mr. Tilton went out there near Thanksgiving and someone was cutting
135 with a chainsaw. They ran into someone with a shovel who said they were moving jumps. They met
136 with Gus' Bike Shop and left contact information recommended they contact Ms. Dionne about working
137 together to improve trails. The owner stated he did not give permission for the work being done at the
138 site. A deer hunter had pictures of teenagers who turned out to be one of the kids at the Bike Shop.

139 Chair Diener spoke with him and directed him to undo everything he did. Ms. Dionne will send photos
140 to the Town Attorney. Chair Diener recommended having an officer go out every couple of weeks.

141 Mr. Tilton noted a map could be designed pertinent to the properties that are becoming more for
142 recreation than forest and that activity will drive wildlife out. Mr. Tilton noted the funds weren't used
143 to build a bike park. Ms. Raymond noted she was concerned with the persons who were lying that they
144 had permission from Conservation.

145 Mr. Fox asked how many trails – 3, 4 and whether more kiosks could be added with maps and
146 acceptable uses listed and the contact information for Conservation and whether high school or junior
147 high school clubs would get involved to help with that, to improve trails, knock out the ramps and fill the
148 holes. There is one kiosk at the entrance.

149 Chair Diener recommended figuring out where we want trails for biking, hiking and running. GIS
150 locators are easy to use to develop trails. Mr. Tilton added that wheeled vehicles could be directed to
151 another trail or taken away completely. Ms. Wrobel recommended making signs that read "ecological
152 restoration area – keep out."

Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

153 Ms. Raymond supported the idea of working with Gus' Bike Shop while letting them know these are the
154 boundaries. Mr. Tilton reminded not all of the land is town property and if someone starts digging up
155 private property the owners may deny all access in the future.

156 Ms. Dionne recommended holding a Town Forest Committee meeting.

157 Mr. Fox discussed the BioBlitz event at Old Orchard Beach where they listed vegetation and animals,
158 mushrooms and spiders, etc. with their common and scientific names and the high school or junior high
159 school could list plants and species found in areas and cite those in the Natural Resource Inventory. Ms.
160 Dionne noted she has some high school teachers were are interested and who are using the I-Naturalist
161 website.

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

163 Ms. Dionne had circulated a copy of the proposed Annual Report and Mr. Diener recently
164 added a note about CHAT. Ms Dionne is waiting to get something for the Victory Garden. It will
165 be submitted the first week of January, due January 3rd.

166 Chair Diener asked about goal setting for next year. Ms. Dionne recommended focusing on the
167 Town Forest and Natural Resource Inventory. Ms. Swank added a little public relations and
168 awareness.

169 Ms. Dionne provided the NHCC wetland rules update concerning application types and noted it
170 is a good refresher or reference for a new member packet. Chair Diener asked if it could be
171 sent out as an email attachment.

172 **VIII. Adjourn**

173

174 **MOTION:** Mr. Tilton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

175 **SECOND:** Ms. Swank seconded the motion.

176

177 **VOTE:** 5-0-1 (Chair Diener abstained)

MOTION PASSED

178

179 Respectfully submitted,

180

181 Nancy J. Hoijer,

182 Recording Secretary