

Conservation Commission	January 10, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

B. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Chair, Paul Melanson, Shawn Hanson, Ann Reis
- b. **Absent:** Robert Wiener, James Kibler, Cathy Golas, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep
- c. **Staff:** Brianna O'Brien
- d. **Other:** Bev Mutrie, Resident

C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lincoln Akerman School: Jill Swasey proposal for a nature trail on 19 acres of school property
 - i. They will apply for funds through NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grants. Grant pays for installation. Partnership between NH Project Learning Tree, NH Fish and Game, and NH Audubon Society
 - ii. Things to consider: Parcel shape, wet/dry. They already have an "assessment" indicating where the wet areas are. There is already a small loop trail that we can connect back into.
 - iii. Ms. Hill will meet with Ms. Swasey this week to go over the information she has and try to walk the property.

D. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The bill for spraying the invasives at Raspberry Farm was paid to RCCD in December. It was exactly as they quoted it, \$2840. Proposal from RCCD for summer of 2023 to spray invasives will come this month or next. Didn't get to do the stump treatment on what had been cut. There is more to cut and treat next year.
- b. Ms. O'Brien presented what will be the last draft to the Hampton Falls Citizen's Land Use Guide.
 - i. The formatting needs to be fixed but the content will not change. The map printed in the guide is a simplified version of the interactive map that can be accessed through the link in the guide. The printed map shows just the wetlands all in one color. The interactive map that is linked in the map can be accessed by clicking the link if the guide is being viewed digitally or via the QR code or by typing in the URL if the guide is being viewed as a hard copy.
 - ii. The Commission decided they would like to see the wetland layer on the interactive map to include all types of wetlands as different colors instead of making the layer all one color for all wetlands.
 - iii. The Commission also discussed if it was needed to add a layer to the interactive map that shows hydric soils. They decided even though hydric soils are considered wetlands in Hampton Falls, it is not necessary to add that layer to the map. Ms. O'Brien will add a note to the user guide for the map in the Land Use Guide that clarifies that hydric soils are not illustrated in the map.

Conservation Commission	January 10, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

E. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS

- a. **Planning Board:** The plan for 12 Lafayette has changed to allow for enough parking for retail but not enough for the apartments. They previously needed 5 variances but now they need 4. Their plan proposes to affect wetlands so the Commission should be prepared for ARM mitigation.
 - i. Ms. O'Brien explained her experiences with ARM. Even though the project is far away, the more prepared the Commission is with shovel ready projects for mitigation, the better. ARM typically likes to review several options and they are very particular with what they accept. They like restoration over purchasing and protecting land and if they are reviewing a land protection proposal they typically only accept one parcel per mitigation project. The intention of the permittee responsible mitigation is to restore or protect the same ecological values that are lost through the development project.
- b. **SHEA:** They had a photo contest and in September picked the winner- Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) now has a "Rising Tide" photo contest with field trip opportunities during the King Tides January 21st through the 23rd.
- c. **Depot Landing:** Mr. Melanson met with Tom Ballesterio, hydrology engineer at UNH, and Dave Burdick, Director Jackson Laboratory, on December 17, Saturday, at 9:30 AM at the Depot.
 - i. They gave advice about what to do in that area specifically about the launch ramp. They suggested putting up signs, etc. The marsh needs to rise faster than the sea level in order to keep hydrology, ecology and local infrastructure safe. It currently is not happening that way.
 - ii. Mr. Melanson suggested a meeting with the Planning Board prior to their next meeting to educate them as to what is happening in this area.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Conservation Circuit Rider Proposal- Karen Anderson wrote a letter of support from the Selectboard for a different part of the grant project. Ms. Hill sent a letter to SHEA on behalf of the Conservation Commission for the Circuit Rider position part of the grant.
- b. Prime wetland waiver: There is a logging operation at 109 Kensington Road (Map 1 lot 9). They need the Conservation Commission's comments on the logging in prime wetland and buffer. They submitted a Permit by Notification and waiver request to the State already. These types of permits do not require the applicant to come before the Commission, but the waiver requires a response from the Commission within 14 days. Typically the applicant comes to the Commission to show the project and do a site walk, which they haven't done this time. The Commission can request an extension. Ms. Hill will reach out to the logger/applicant to request a site walk.
- c. Discussion of wetland permitting process review by the Conservation Commission- Ms. Hill would like to implement a wetland permit process review similar to Hampton's. Mr. Hanson pointed out that the ordinances have to allow for that kind of process and that it doesn't make sense to review an application form before we know if this is something

Conservation Commission	January 10, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

Hampton Falls can do regulatorily. Ms. O'Brien will review and audit the Town ordinances so next year any necessary amendments can be made to allow for a wetland permit process.

G. FINANCIAL

- a. The bill for \$2840 was paid to RCCD in December from the general budget
- b. Budget Balance \$938.00
- c. Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund beg. Bal. \$45,148.67 Current Balance ~ \$92,000.
- d. Fund Balance \$160,939.03

H. MINUTES

- a. December 13, 2022 Minutes
- b. Ms. Hill proposes a change to the wording of the explanation of the SHEA Coordinator Position.
- c. Mr. Hanson moves to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Melanson seconds. All approve.

I. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Mr. Hanson moves to adjourn at 7:57pm. Mr. Melanson seconds. All approve.