

Conservation Commission	April 11, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:34pm

### B. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Chair, Ann Reis, Shawn Hanson, Robert Wiener, Cathy Golas, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep (left at 7:30pm)
- b. **Absent:** Karen Ayers, alternate, Nancy Roka, alternate,
- c. **Staff:** Brianna O'Brien

### C. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Officer election

- i. Mr. Wiener moved to make Mary Ann Hill the chair. Ms. Golas seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- ii. Mr. Wiener moved to make Shawn Hanson the vice chair. Ms. Golas seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

- b. **Pond Presentation:** Lena Jackson presented her plans for a pond on their property at 61 Brown Rd.

- i. The size is to be 2,400 sq.ft.; depth <8 feet with rubber liner. Is bringing a Wetland scientist's report. Being done by Natural Pools and Swim ponds by Robin's Nest.
- ii. This will look like a pond but function like a swimming pool. It will have a very natural look. It will have a rubber liner and it is filtered with plants and sunlight. It is surrounded by crushed stone, there is a "bog" (regeneration zone) that the water is pumped through and filtered. It will not be standing water, it will be filtered and constantly moving. It will have an 8 ft deep end like a pool. It will be filled with unchlorinated water initially. It will have a french drain underneath the liner to deal with any groundwater. Any overflow water will be directed to a swale into a dry well that will disperse it. In the winter, the pipes get blown out and it can freeze.
- iii. It is a small enough that the Army Corps of Engineers do not need to oversee it. It is also outside of the wetland buffer. Hoping to start in May.
- iv. Ms. Hill asked if the rubber liner would give off any toxic chemicals to the ground. Ms. Jackson said no.
- v. The Commission agreed it sounded great and they would recommend putting a fence around it for safety.

- c. **Interns:** The commission has 4 applicants. They will be interviewed and two will be selected
- d. **New request:** Turtle/amphibian crossing sign -

Conservation Commission	April 11, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

- i. The Commission read Greenland's language regarding turtle safety. Crank Rd, Brown Rd, Wellington Farms- Crystal Drive (there is a culvert) could use signs
  1. Mr. Hanson moved to purchase up to 8 turtle crossing signs, up to \$300. Ms. Reis seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. 5 Kensington Road subdivision**

- i. The Commission originally wrote a letter saying they would not interfere with the review process for this project and let the Planning Board and the ZBA make their decisions. The Commission has now been asked for their opinions again.
- ii. The Commission discussed the proposed plans. They generally opposed the project.
- iii. The lots are very tight, it is horribly crowded and the septic is shared between two lots and is being pumped out far in the back of one of the lots. This is problematic if there is an issue with it, then who would be responsible for fixing it? A system this close to the wetlands is cause of concern anyway.
- iv. There is a shared driveway between two lots and there are easements all over each lot.
- v. There is one well for three lots and that is cause for concern.
- vi. The impacts on the wetlands are alarming. There will be unnecessary temporary impacts during construction and also with the lots being so tight, the long term impacts on the wetland could be very concerning.
- vii. The Commission asked "Who would buy this?" It is a buyer beware situation. However, it sets people up for failure and future violations. People don't know that they have such restrictions, buy the lots and then get upset that they are shoe-horned into the lot and can't even add a porch. Or they use the wetland buffer area as a lawn and put out a patio table and a swing set.
- viii. The Commission is surprised that the ZBA granted any variances. They need to know which variances were granted exactly. It originally was going to be a one or two lot parcel when the school board sold it. Deed restrictions would be needed and that could create problems down the line.
- ix. Mr. Hanson brought up the five requirements for a variance and questioned if this plan satisfied all the requirements
- x. Ms. Hill will write a letter on behalf of the Commission.

##### **b. Raspberry Farm:**

Conservation Commission	April 11, 2023
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

- i. Ms. Hill has seeds for overseeding at Raspberry Farm it is a mixture of different grasses and three different types of clover. This will be for reseeding and planting the areas where the brush was burned so that invasives don't take over.
  - ii. Ms. Hill is still looking to get shrubs from state nursery: they have red oak, button bush would be nice but they still don't have it. Button bush would go around the pond, it is a riparian plant. The red oak would be on the hill where the bittersweet was taken. 5000 worms are needed to feed one nest of chickadees. Oak trees are the best habitat for the moths that lay the eggs that hatch into worms.
- c. **Citizens Guide:** Ms. OBrien printed some samples of the newsletter and reviewed some of the printing prices. Ms. Hill suggested an affordable option. Ms. OBrien will send the document to be posted on the website and for Mark to review.
- d. **Greenhead traps:** At the last meeting the Commission decided to go with the Girl Scouts. The project started with them and they were less expensive.
  - i. The Commission asked if they really need 10 new traps every year? David Gandt said the Girl Scouts could do fewer traps but the condition after 5 years is typically pretty bad and there will be an increase maintenance cost per year if the Commission only does 5. They charge \$100 per trap made with some pressure treated wood parts but it is not entirely PT. Dragon charges \$170 per trap and uses PT wood for the entire trap.
  - ii. There was a question of where the traps could be stored. It was discussed that the Rec's new storage facility would be an option. Or the building where the cardboard is stored now, although there might not be enough room.
  - iii. The Commission wants more oversight as far as maintenance needs, Mr. Gandt thinks that would be a good idea but would like a contract for oversight.
  - iv. The final cost from the Girl Scouts is \$1750 for 10 new traps and placement and retrieval. The Commission voted last month to go with the Girl Scouts.
- e. **School proposal for trail:** The grant application was turned down because it was emphasized that it would be a literature trail and not a science trail.
- f. **Meetings and webinars:**
  - i. Ms. Hill attended the March 31<sup>st</sup> NHACC Webinar: DES rules and how the permit process works.
  - ii. Upcoming webinars: April 14 Introduction to wetland assessment

## E. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>April 11, 2023</b>
<b>Town of Hampton Falls</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>

- a. Planning Board - 5 Kensington
- b. ZBA - nothing to report
- c. SHEA- Rail trail webinar, nothing new to report. They are still years away from working on the Hampton Falls section.

#### **F. FINANCIAL**

- a. Fund Bal: \$160,958.87
- b. Budget Balance \$10,700
- c. Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund beg. Bal. \$45,148.67 Current Balance ~ \$92,000.

#### **G. MINUTES**

- a. **Review minutes from** March 21, 2023
- b. The documentation of the vote needs to be added- Ms. Golas made the motion and Ms. Reis seconded for the greenhead traps.
- c. Mr. Wiener moved to accept as amended. Ms. Golas seconded . All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn at 8:00pm. Mr. Wiener seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.