

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

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

### A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:29pm

### B. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Chair, Ann Reis, Shawn Hanson, Cathy Golas
- b. **Absent:** Paul Melanson, Robert Wiener, Nancy Roka, alternate, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep
- c. **Staff:** Brianna O'Brien

### C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Farmers market:
  - i. Ms. Golas is unable to volunteer this week. The Commission discussed the schedule and who is available and when. Ms. Golas and Ms. Reis are the only two who have volunteered.
  - ii. The goals of tabling at the Farmers Market are to get more people to join the Commission, and to spread awareness about vernal pools and invasive species. They can also pass out the Citizen's Guide.
  - iii. It was also discussed that the Commission could use a sandwich board for the Farmer's Market and it could also be used for other events such as when the interns are doing trail work. Mr. Hanson will look around to see what he can find. Otherwise, the Commission can use their budget to buy something online
- b. Dog Sign Complaint:
  - i. The Road Agent took out the signs at The Raspberry Farm about dog waste and replaced them with the extra signs from the Depot. They are signs about leashing dogs and picking up the waste, but the language is much stronger than what was there previously. Ms. Hill got a complaint.. It was likely done through the Selectboard and it appears they want to keep them up. The Commission was not originally looking to put signs up that had that strong of language, there was conversation about whether or not they can take down the signs and replace them with what was originally there. The assumption is that the Selectboard instructed the Road Agent to purchase and place them. More information is needed before the Commission can take any action. The Commission is generally in consensus that the original signs were more light-hearted and the new signs don't add any additional information. Mr. Hanson suggested asking

Ms. Anderson “We were happy with our signs and would like to know how it came to be that these new signs were put up?”

- ii. The Commission discussed a dog bag station. The concern is who is going to take out the trash. The person who suggested the station said they would take out the trash, but there is a concern if she isn’t around. Mr. Hanson suggested seeing how it goes. It was also discussed if there are stations with no trash cans. The Commission could add a sign about carry in, carry out.

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

- a. Turtle signs- Ms. Golas has not yet ordered them, she had questions about what exactly to get and size. Mr. Hanson said the bigger the better. Once the signs come in, the road agent can put them up. Ms. Golas will order them.
- b. Vernal pools- Ms. Hill wants to hand out vernal pool handouts at the Farmers Market. She explained the handbook and said she would make copies.

#### **E. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS**

- a. Interns have been very busy. They cleaned up some trails at Marsh Lane. They have been working on the invasives. The interns have been learning identification and updating the invasive inventory. Took care of a lot of black swallowwort at Marsh Lane. They also worked at Weare Field. They took out a lot of invasives. However, rosa rugosa and bittersweet are nearly impossible to take out by hand so the Road Agent is going to go over and bulldoze the area. The interns are also working at the Depot and the invasives there.
  - i. While at the Depot, the Road Agent came by and showed the plan from the Depot Committee with trailer parking spots along the marsh. Ms. Hill told him the trailer parking spots along the marsh are not feasible given the existing damage along the marsh. It is a vulnerable spot. It is not just vehicle traffic, it is foot traffic as well.
- b. Phragmites project- Ms. Hill put some fresh cut phragmite into a saltwater bath and they sprouted in 10 days. Ms. Hill also dried some and then put them in the saltwater and they did not sprout. Based on this, cutting the phragmites before they go to seed and drying them can work for fill in the marsh ditches. The interns surveyed the ditches and got all of the dimensions for all of the ditches in Hampton Falls. They took GPS readings for all of the ditches but have to adjust for the conversion factor and are still figuring out how to do that. Ms. Hill has a meeting with Kevin Lucey, NHDES Coastal Program tomorrow to discuss these efforts.
- c. SHEA- SHAE’s National Estuaries Week photo contest is coming up in September. They are exploring options to do a photo class before the contest as an outreach effort. They are also looking at a kayaking outreach opportunity.
- d. PLANNING BOARD- There was no Planning Board meeting this month, there was nothing being proposed

- e. ZBA- There was one application: the applicant wants to put in a physical therapy business at 87 Lafayette Rd and needed a special exception for use, it was approved.

**F. FINANCIAL**

- Fund Bal: \$161,916.86
- 2023 Budget: \$7,866.71. But it is not correct, interns got overpaid in one pay cycle. So it should be 7,981.71.

**G. MINUTES**

- a. June 13, 2023 Minutes
  - i. Mr. Hanson moved to accept the minutes as edited. Ms. Reis seconded.  
Vote: unanimous

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn.. Ms. Reis seconded. Vote: Unanimous