

**Minutes
Hampden Tree Board & Friends of Dorothea Dix
Subcommittee of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee
January 12, 2009 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Tree Board was called to order at 6:30pm on Monday, January, 12, 2009, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Jim Feverston.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Bob Osborne, Planner
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Jim Feverston
Kay Carter
Jane Jarvi
Tom Nelson, Prentiss & Carlisle
Lance Case
Chris Packard
Shelby Wright

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Business

A. Response to Tom Nelson's Comments

The group discussed Tom Nelson's list of items that need to be addressed. Response notes are made in the attached list. Further work on Dorothea Dix Park will be delayed until the town can secure rights-of-way access to the park from Hopkins Road.

B. Proposed Workplan/Timeline for Activities

All loose ends should be tied up by June in order for a July – September harvest time frame. When the harvesting occurs will partly depend on market turn-around and what exactly will be harvested.

C. Other FoDDix

According to the Charter for the FoDDix, there should be more representation from other groups. Kurt and Kay will work together to get more of those reps involved and they will plan a committee-building event. The next meeting for the group is to be determined on account of

the pending rights-of-way issue and the Council's Committee on Committees work and pending results.

D. Ordinance Annual Plan

The Tree Board used Google Docs to continue to edit and revise the plan.

E. Other Tree Bd.

The article for the newsletter and newspapers was approved, Chris and Lance agreed they would provide an email address as contact info in the article. The Council approved the purchase of six new Tree City USA signs. A sign cannot be placed on Rt. 202 due to DOT restrictions. Phil, Lance, and Chris will work on adding to and updating the master plant list. Gretchen will check the database hosting capabilities of govoffice.com where the Town's website is hosted.

3. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist

To: Hampden Tree Board / Friends of Dorothea Dix Park

At the last meeting Prentiss & Carlisle was asked to identify items requiring further definition to prepare an operational plan for the park re-development. After reviewing the most recent info from the interest groups I have listed the current required items. In listing these I refer to the 8/14/08 Memorandum To: Hampden Town Council, Susan Lessard, Town Manager, Community Services Committee, From: Hampden Tree Board. - The memo listed activities with visions and goals by number. I shall reference my items requiring further clarification to these.

1. Hopkins Road access? Per 12/15/08 material from Thomas A. Russell it appears this is not deeded access to the park. Access is the greatest logistical factor in the operation. This is being further researched by Tom Russell. 01/07/08 material from Tom R. indicates the town does not own nor has right to use the 20ft strip. Tom R. recommends first that we try to obtain a donation for a form of access; if not, he recommends we negotiate an outright purchase or rights of way. Council approval is probably needed to approach the owner to ask for rights of way, and it should be requested through ComServ. This may be the lot 046-0-002 that had an owner that was unaware he/she owned it; bought it to keep it from tax liens.
2. Trail locations and spec's need to be clearly identified. The group created a New Trails Map that P&C has seen. Future Discussion: specs for the trail- crushed rock, pavement, chips? TreeBd and town staff should go out with Tom N. and flag trail locations. Same group should do site assessment to see what is there that could be used for base layer. Board walk would be neat near wet area, conservation group could work with us on this aspect. Have to wait for snow melt.
3. Boundary edges of this section need to be marked and who marks retained specimen trees? TreeBd members & Gretchen would mark trees.
4. Who ID's wildlife trees? Trail location and spec's? To what level is P&C responsible for trail construction? Wildlife trees would be marked by TreeBd and Gretchen. Trail specs and level of involvement need to be discussed - See #2.
5. Wetland crossing shall be required to access operation. Appropriate measure taken to protect. Timber mats will be used, but does the group want to look into keeping the causeway or constructing a bridge? Improve causeway rather than build bridge- need to take care to properly place culvert at correct elevation so as not to change water level on either side. Check w/Public Works to see if we have any granite that could be used for this project. Maybe ask Lane if we don't have any.
6. New trail loop and spec's needs to be defined. See #2.
7. Open area archeology areas located and marked prior to operation. Pending access from Hopkins road driveway design and spec's defined. Continue to try to engage Winterport retired professor. Wood stakes and flagging should suffice for marking this area, done by town staff & TreeBd members. Deed research is ongoing. Future discussion: pavilion location, gravel road location & use, parking area location, native grasses project & planting location. -> hold off because we don't have access yet.
8. Again R.O.W. determination. Ongoing research - See #1.
9. No questions.

10. No questions.

11. What level of action in controlling invasive vegetation by P&C? Future discussion: mechanical, chemical, fire, hand removal? Options: Cut down & spray stem w/Roundup, need Applicator's License. Gretchen will gather more info on the fire research.

12. With the exception of operation following BMP's what level of repair to existing erosion issues should P&C plan consider? Most of these are on trails and referring back to trail development is P&C to construct trails to town spec's or is this work to be responsibility of Public Works or contractor? See #2, this is for Future discussion. P&C to provide different scenarios after walk-through. Lance and Chris will walk now in snowshoes and flag areas with pink flagging. Possibility of smoothing down edge of the gravel pit so not as steep?

Identify expert that can help clarify the vernal pool biology. Gretchen, Bob, and other staff will be attending a 2/6 vernal pool workshop in Augusta.