

Hampden Conservation Commission, 2010-04-27

Attending: Wally Jakubas, Ed Steltzer, Bob Osborne, Don Katnik

Conservation Commission Membership

We still have not received resignation letters from those who are leaving HCC; technically we cannot fill those seats until those resignations are final. Also currently do not have any candidates for new members. It may be that going public with our conservation plans will excite some people enough to become more involved. Other ideas – with ordinance work coming up, wouldn't hurt to have someone with some legal background on the commission. Another need is someone with experience with land trusts, easements, etc. Town deals with some law firms that might have “young/upcoming” attorneys that we might cajole into being involved. We don't have a member on the Tree Board now and really should.

Comp Plan Status

Had a “public” meeting last night and no one came (only Nancy C.). Three more public meetings are planned over the next 3 weeks. There has been very little attention paid by developers, either (probably because the plan doesn't designate zoning changes). Town just went through a year of shoreland zoning; may be a little “worn out” on town meetings. By the end of May, we'll know if there are issues that need to be addressed from public input.

Public involvement in a lot of town activities is really a problem. How do we identify people who are interested in conservation?

Reviewed site plan for Canaan Meadows area

Next steps for the 4 Conservation Areas we've drafted plans for:

1. Develop maps, aerial imagery for each area (invite Gretchen)
2. Site visit to each area to refine plans (take digital photos) – week from Sat, meet at town office at 8 am
3. Present plans to Comprehensive planning committee, Town Council, Planning Board, etc. Could there be a meeting with all of the committees, boards, etc. (at least representatives from each one) that are being “assigned” tasks from the Comp Plan and present these plans there?
4. Get public input on the plans
 - a. Power-Point on web site? Present at a town meeting?
 - b. Newsletter/ mailing?
 - c. Poster in town hall on voting day (June 8?)
 - d. Children's Day (simulated outcome of plans for areas?)
 - e. Opportunities to recruit new members!

Methods for Mapping Conservation Areas in Hampden
Hampden Conservation Commission, 2010-05-27

1. Merge areas mapped as Significant Wildlife Habitats under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (Deer Wintering Areas, Inland Waterfowl/Wading bird Habitats)
2. Add mapped habitats for Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species (upland sandpiper)
3. Add streams and wetlands protected under Municipal Shore land Zoning (append components and dissolve).
4. Undeveloped, deep interior areas. Buffer paved roads by 0.25 mile to remove "edge" areas potentially influenced by development.
5. Merge polygons to create Priority Area boundaries
6. Fill in interior holes and clip boundary edges (e.g., at roads and to remove "fingers") based on imagery