

**Hampden Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
for  
February 28, 2006**

Present: Ed Steltzer (Chair), Bob Osborn, Michael Robbins, Mark McCollough, Don Katnik, and Wally Jakubas (Secretary).

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

The Hampden Conservation Commission (HCC) unanimously approved the January 24, 2006 Minutes after some misspellings were corrected.

**Item 2: HCC Voting When Guests are Present**

The issue was raised whether we should delay discussions and voting on proposals while guests are present. Commission members wanted to be able to candidly discuss the pros and cons of proposals without making the guest feel uncomfortable. It was pointed out that these are public meetings and guests have the right to be present when any proposal is voted on. However, the Commission also recognized the need for candor when discussing proposals. It was suggested that votes on proposals be tabled if a member felt the merits of the proposal could not be discussed candidly. After the HCC had a chance to discuss the proposal, guests would be invited back for the vote or further discussion.

**Item 3: Dorothea Dix Park Survey**

The survey of Dorothea Dix Park needs to be initiated by the Recreational Planner. Bob mentioned that the wall was damaged by a plow and is in need of further repair.

**Item 4: Signage for the Transfer Station**

Recycling signs at the transfer station have been removed. It was proposed that replacement signs be purchased from Bacon Printing. Don suggested that we make a sign showing the various costs for removing recyclable materials. In particular he was interested in putting up a sign for the demo-debris pile at the Transfer Station. No resolution was recorded for this item.

*How do you sign it?*  
**Item 4: Beginning with Habitat**

The issue was raised whether Tom Brand has been invited to an HCC meeting yet. The purpose for inviting Tom was to discuss a variety of Beginning with Habitat issues with him.

Don reported that Colleen Ryan, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, would try to gather information on laws and regulations pertaining to items mapped on the Beginning with Habitat Maps.

It was suggested that we work with the Open Space Committee on the plat plans and identify where the open space areas are in town. We scheduled a meeting at 5:30 on March 9 to identify open space on the plat plans.

#### **Item 5: Project Canopy Grant**

A 50% match is required for the grant. Bob went to the meeting said there was some concern about fulfilling the match requirement. The scoring criteria for this grant was not applicable to the proposal we were presented in January. Conclusion: wrong project for the grant.

Dorothea Dix Park and other areas in town could use a forest management plan and inventory. DOC – Maine Forest Service has a Woodwise Program that helps communities develop forest management plans. Mark McCollough will try to get a video that describes the program. This might be a better grant to pursue than the Project Canopy Grant. It was suggested that we invite Becky back to discuss the possibility of becoming involved in a Woodwise Program. Open space areas that could possibly use a forest management plan are LL Bean Property, Reed's Brook, Dorothea Dix, the Paper Mill Recreation Area, and the Helprin property.

#### **Item 6: Apportionment for Cash in Lieu or Open Space**

The Open Space committee will be looking into the town's apportionment for cash in lieu fees or open space designation.

(Don) Tom Brand thought if the town had an open space plan we might not be dealing with DEP on a case-by-case basis.

What can the town do with our ordinances to create more incentives for wise development?

Long-range goal is to develop an open space plan. An open space plan is part of the town's comprehensive plan.

#### **Item 7: Committees to Address Annual Goals**

Bob suggested that we look for examples of pleasing signs for open spaces. Signs are needed to denote boundaries and areas. Work will be put off until the middle of the year.

Criteria for Conservation Award – Mark McCollough will bring some criteria for the conservation award. Don asked what we were trying to achieve by giving this award – a brief discussion followed. Mark thought that we need to publicize the award more.

Bob said that Tom Brand thought the HCC should create a set of by-laws. Bob will bring in some examples for us to do this.

Mark suggested that for the next meeting that people come with suggestions for planting trees. There was discussion on whether the HCC should be involved in planting trees in areas where

their primary purpose is to beautify the town. Bob said that publicworks would be stretched thin to plant trees – wont happen. If we don't do it no one will.

Hazardous Waste Collection – Bob suggested that Bangor should give out AM & PM passes to reduce the waiting time or spread the collection period out over two days. We need to make suggestions for improving the process way ahead of time.

### **Item 8: Town Planner's Report**

Shaw Hill road subdivision, Madison's Way – town council would like to see access to off-road open spaces be at least 66 ft wide, so the town could put in a road if needed.

Linda Williams had a sketch plan for a piece of land that backs into a large wetland area off of the Kennebec Road. This plan raised questions regarding how much of a buffer should be around the development. They will come back with another sketch plan.

To keep Shore-land zoning moving along, the Council will adopt a set of GIS based zoning maps. Prior to this zoning maps were just hand-drawn.

Proposed quarry by Ammo Drive - Larkin sold off this property and it was bought by Thibodeau. Thibodeau is proposing a 10-acre quarry. The town only requires a security deposit of \$100 / acre for quarries – not much incentive for restoration! DEP will not get too involved as long as it is under 10 acres. Thibodeau submitted a rehabilitation plan to restore the land to its former grade. Supposedly they have a lot of backfill. The Planning Board will be considering an ordinance to ban these quarries.

### **Dunk'n Donuts development**

Bob feels there may not be the traffic problems that he originally anticipated.

**Next Meeting – March 28**