

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Services Committee
January 10, 2011 @ 6:00pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:01p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2011, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Jean Lawlis.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Councilor Jean Lawlis, Chair
Mayor Matt Arnett
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Kristen Hornbrook
Melanie Spencer, MSAD22

1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Arnett pointed out that he was present at the December meeting and asked for the minutes to be amended as such. Minutes for 11/08/10 and 12/15/10 (as amended) were motioned for approval by Mayor Arnett. All voted in favor. Councilor Lawlis mentioned that the item from the November agenda that she wanted to comment on was the lidar information, especially as related to updating watershed boundary maps, and asked that lidar project updates be added to this committee's task list. Gretchen stated that it might be better served to be on Planning & Development, but that she would add it to this committee as well.

2. Old Business

A. MSAD22 Trails Grant

Melanie brought a summary status sheet, attached. As a point of clarification, Melanie is working as an independent contractor for MSAD22 on a freelance basis for this grant project. She also pointed out that the deadline noted on the Agenda Task List of July was incorrect; the deadline is November 2011 for this grant. Melanie asked what needed to be done to get the grant ready from the town's perspective, so that it can be submitted for the next round. Gretchen pointed out that the MOU needs to get put back on the front burner, since it could take months to get the legal sorted out. Another question raised was who exactly would be the applicant, since this seemed to morph throughout the process last year. This would need to be included in the MOU, as it relates to the next concern – financial implications. The town supports the grant, but only in as far as the intrinsic value of giving up the land to be used for this project, for a period of ten years, which the town sees as an in-kind contribution. The town is also supportive of other in-kind contributions of staff time, but the chances of hard money to

support construction or long-term maintenance are slim. Maintenance is another thing that needs to be included in the MOU – all of these and more are noted in previous minutes, Gretchen pointed out. Accessibility during school hours also needs to be included, to ensure that residents can access the trails at any time, including during school hours. The latest MOU is believe to be a draft put together by Tom Russell, edited by MSAD22's attorney, and then T. Russell responses to MSAD22 attorney's comments, dated 12 October 2010. Gretchen will check what she has and forward to the group.

The Mayor mentioned that there has been only brief infant-stage discussion of doing a land swap with the old Hampden Academy piece, but that is nowhere near fruition.

Melanie did some research and found studies that support that recreation trails have a positive economic impact, and helps to increase sale value and turn-around time of residential properties near recreation trails.

Melanie noted that she thought it would be a good idea to get abutting landowners on board well ahead of time, and thought that the letter should come from the town. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. It was also suggested that a walk-through of the property might be a good idea later in the year in June or July.

Gretchen noted that perhaps some of the environmental groups in the area might be willing to support the project, since part of it includes a bridge over Reeds Brook, which should mean reduced erosion in those areas from what is currently happening. Gretchen will check into this and see if she can dig up some contact information to send to Melanie.

The maps that Melanie has should be updated to include the current location of the bleachers at the wetland area. Gretchen will check if she has yet received the GPS data as shown on the maps, but she was pretty sure she still had not received any data files.

The idea of a stakeholder meeting was brought up, and all agreed that was a good idea. It was thought that the bridge engineer should be there to answer questions. This meeting would occur sometime in April or May, and should include user groups, the town, the school, abutters, and the bridge engineer at the least. Councilor Brann thinks we should have the MOU completely worked out before this meeting. No objection.

The MSAD22 new school building wetland mitigation money was mentioned as an update, since Melanie had some information about the status of that account, attached. That money is totally independent of this trails grant project and is not to be used for this purpose. It was also noted that while that account is commonly referred to as the "trails money" account, it is not specifically for that purpose and on the attached spreadsheet, is not referred to as such. The money may be used for any purpose. On the spreadsheet it is "Wetland Compensation Fee". Melanie will make sure this is clear on her end.

This item will likely be on every agenda for the foreseeable future. Melanie will bring some trail and bridge updates to the next meeting, regarding trail widths (as it can impact wetland mitigation) and bridge design.

B. Subcommittee Updates

Tree Board – Gretchen is still working on moving the harvesting along. She got a very very rough estimate from Prentiss & Carlisle, and it was pretty costly. Setting that aside, she noted that there are still access issues, especially with getting 18-wheelers, other equipment, and loads of wood in/out of the park. Even though we have been given verbal permission from the owner of the 20ft strip off the end of Hopkins Rd to access the park, that would need to be put in writing, but further, there are trees and mailboxes at that sharp corner that would need to be cut or relocated in order for an 18-wheeler to swing in there. Gretchen is trying to get some other estimates for small operations with hand crews, to see how that might compare. There is no information worth presenting yet, but once she has some numbers put together for consideration, she will bring them to Finance Committee.

HOTDOG – no update, the committee has not met, but will be meeting within the next couple weeks, date was being worked out.

FoDDix – no update, the committee has not met, but will be meeting at the end of this month at the regularly scheduled time.

3. New Business

4. Public Comment

No public comments.

5. Committee Member Comments

The committee discussed what to move from the Agenda Task List into the actual Agenda for next meeting, and decided on the Outdoor Facilities Ordinance to be put on every agenda until it is done. Parks Dept. planning and Papermill Rd Park were tentatively suggested for March Agenda.

The next meeting is February 14, 2011 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist

**Town Services Committee Meeting
January 10, 2011, 6:00 p.m.**

Hampden Recreational Trails Project

Status report:

- Review work to date.
- Grant application was placed on hold. Project still has energy and support from the community.
- MSAD #22 is interested in moving forward with help from Melanie and other partners.
- Changes considered: make some or all trail sections narrower (10-12 ft.) to cut costs and to lessen wetlands infringement; involve other groups to expand user groups (nature trails, etc.).

Discussion:

Is the committee interested in moving forward with the project? Would members support a RTP grant application – or other applications – in 2011?

Are there any obstacles to successful collaboration among partners?

What are the needs of partners?

MJSpencer 1.10.11

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14 Environmental Permitting

(14a through 14j)

Approved Amount **\$378,839**

Paid to date **\$328,838**

14a Wetland Compensation Fee

Approved Amount **\$50,000**

Running Expenditures Total

Amount Paid

Paid To

Notes

Date	Invoice #	Check #	Amount Paid	Running Expenditures Total	Notes
			\$0	\$0	
			\$0	\$0	
			\$0	\$0	
			\$0	\$0	
			\$0	\$0	

14b DEP Application PREP

(includes Planning Board Application PREP)

Approved Amount **\$257,000**

Running Expenditures Total

Amount Paid

Paid To

Notes

Date	Invoice #	Check #	Amount Paid	Running Expenditures Total	Notes
10/23/08	80332	37850	\$15,000	\$15,000	
10/23/08	80332	80977	\$15,000	\$30,000	
1/29/09	81092	39158	\$20,200	\$50,200	
2/10/09	81174	39821	\$20,200	\$70,400	
2/10/09	90031	39821	\$40,400	\$110,800	
2/10/09	90132	39821	\$26,260	\$137,060	
3/12/09	90229	39668	\$44,440	\$181,500	
4/9/09	90253	40028	\$28,280	\$209,780	
5/14/09	90393	40513	\$12,220	\$221,999	
6/18/09	90492	41040	\$7,860	\$229,760	
6/30/09	90552	41358	\$7,310	\$237,070	
8/11/09	90697	41527	\$8,580	\$245,650	
9/16/09	90784	42201	\$750	\$246,400	
10/20/09	90886	42786	\$4,540	\$250,940	
11/24/09	90962	43471	\$6,060	\$257,000	

14c DEP Application Fee

Approved Amount **\$4,230**

Running Expenditures

Notes

Notes

E. Genat
11/29/10