

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Community Services Committee
January 15, 2008 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at the Hampden Municipal Building.

Bob Osborne, Town Planner
Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Chris Shrum, EMDC
Nancy Chaiyabhat
John Mahoney
Don Katnik, Conservation Commission
Bion Foster, Econ. Dev.
Councilor Andre Cushing
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Shannon Cox
Councilor Andrew Colford

1. Introductions of new people.

No introductions necessary.

2. Business

A. Tree Board

The tree board needs to be created. We discussed who may be good options, and wanted to see if Jim Feverston would serve as one of the two citizen members. There is possible someone on Conservation Commission that could serve either as the ConsvCom member or the arborist member. Discussed contacting the garden club to see who they might recommend. Need to go through appointments committee, anyway.

B. Forest Management Plan

The forest management plan was handed in, completed for all designated parcels. It was reviewed by Gretchen and Councilor Brann and falls right in line with what we had discussed with them along the way.

C. Dorothea Dix Park Trail Work

Gretchen will contact UMaine PRT department again to see if they can drum up interest among students to work for the town over the summer to develop a trail plan and do the work. Councilor Brann also asked P&C to submit a proposal for the work. The clean up current trails and creation of new trails and seating areas will be an expenditure, but it is expected to be a break-even venture because it will be offset by the timber harvest part of the overall project. Chris Shrum offered to look for grant money related to historic events (D.Dix, first state park, etc) because it may also help reduce our cost.

3. Comp Plan Discussion

Discussion centered on recreation, and Chris Shrum provided a handout about recreation needs for Hampden based on conversation with Kurt and Bob. Please see that handout for the bulk of the ideas generated. Other items were brought up:

- need for more than two tennis courts
- MSAD22 renovation and use of old building- recreation center? They are looking to make money off the place through leases, possibly, and not selling outright.
- a call for a review of other communities with large rec facilities (capacity, population, etc)
- general consensus that we need a trails rec committee to balance out the organized sports rec committee
- adult education program at MSAD22 is shutting down and they will probably look to rec to take over some of those programs. May be possible to regionalize and consolidate with neighboring towns' programs.

An unrelated issue that arose was that of aesthetics issues regarding subdivision signs, property maintenance, mobile homes, and safety. It was noted that in order for code enforcement to do anything with current ordinances, let alone new ideas, was to give him the authority to assess fines or bring issues to a legal court. We have no fines system, and we rarely take a person to court. All the letters written to a violator in the world will not necessarily make them comply without some concrete system behind it for further action.

The next meeting is *February 5th* at 6:30pm for ComServ and 7pm for Comp Plan discussion.

4. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist