

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Services Committee
June 08, 2009 @ 6:00pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:05p.m. on Monday, June 08, 2009, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Shannon Cox.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Councilor Shannon Cox
Mayor Matt Arnett
Councilor Andre Cushing
Councilor Jean Lawlis
Anthony Sangiovanni
Emmy Monahan
Bernard Monahan
Jim Feverston
Debbie Lozito, Library Director

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for 04/13/2009 were motioned for approval by Mayor Arnett with a second by Councilor Lawlis. All voted in favor, minutes approved.

2. Old Business

A. Library Board

Debbie reported on the current work of the Library Board of Trustees. She indicated that they had been working on changing their bylaws and had two sets that needed to be merged. She mentioned that in the course of that work, they had checked against the Library Ordinance, dated 1983, and that the bylaws and ordinance conflicted and apparently had for some time. Debbie was looking to the Services Committee for some direction on what the specific duties should be of the Library Board – should it be according to the old ordinance or to what they have been doing that has been working? The ordinance gives authority to the Library Board to establish library policies, authorize expenditures, oversee the management and administration of the library, set fees and fines, and more. Debbie sent a fee ordinance change request to the then Charter and Ordinance Committee about three or four years ago and never heard anything from it. She would like to know if she can go ahead and change fees without Council authorization because the Library ordinance states so? The Library Board also wanted to reduce their number of members from 15 to nine and change the quorum level. Chair Cox

stated that the Library Board should finish rewriting their bylaws and should draft changes to the ordinance to make sense with how they conduct business. The changes should be brought back tot Services for review. Debbie noted that the board usually does not meet over the summer, so they may not be back with changes until the fall.

Debbie also let the committee know that they had just completed a study with the aid of WBRC, to investigate expansion options for the Library: move to a new location, re-use an existing location, or build an addition on the current library. The last option proved to be the most cost effective. Debbie will obtain an electronic version of the summary report from WBRC to email out to the committee.

The last item Debbie shared with the group was an understaffing issue she is facing in the coming weeks. One staff member planned a vacation at the same time another staff member's husband will be having unexpected bypass surgery. Debbie has had to call around all the part time staff she has to fill in to meet the two staff at all times library standard policy, and has even asked for volunteers, which is not optimal. There is at least one hour during this time where she will be by herself in the library. The Chair noted that there is a difference between lean staffing and being under staffed and how that can affect the level of service and service delivery. Debbie stated that she has looked into hiring a regional staff person to be shared among other libraries in the area.

B. FoDDix Update

Three landowners adjacent to Dorothea Dix Park were present and voiced their concerns about allowing rear access to the park. They also questioned why they were not invited to earlier meetings, noting meeting minutes dating back to August 2008 that suggested this should be done. Gretchen recapped the process to date and the current status of access. Chair Cox stated that it was not the group's intention to slight anyone from the process, as the initial formation of the group and all meetings have been advertised on the town's website and cable access channel. All meeting agendas and minutes as well as supplemental documents and maps are also on the website. There was also at least one feature on the group in the town newsletter that gets mailed to every resident. The reason for the lack of a formal invitation to all abutters is because as soon as the process was started, the legal question of access arose, and the group thought it best to get that sorted out before bringing in more participants. The legal research took months. The Chair apologized for any and all misunderstandings.

The neighbors voiced the following concerns and suggestions:

- privacy & safety: currently, kids have drinking and smoking parties in the park, and even trespass onto neighboring docks and yards.
- perhaps start by improving the current trail and front access – perhaps remove/move a section of wall to allow safer entry/exit
- do the harvesting, as they all agreed the forest needs to be cleaned up and it's not very healthy

- requested a walking tour with the group to get a visual idea of the plans, and where the boundaries are located
- mark the boundaries more clearly
- any activities proposed should be buffered because sound carries easily in the area
- Hopkins Road is narrow and has almost no underlying road bed, so it is not conducive to bus traffic or increased traffic
- people hunt in the park
- do not want increased access nor increased policing

Committee responses:

- if the back were opened up for access, it would be easier to police and control
- hunting is not allowed and Public Safety should be notified. Each year No Hunting signs are posted and promptly torn down by hunters

Gretchen asked the residents to give their email addresses so she could add them to the email list for FoDDix. One of the three residents offered to serve on the group. Gretchen will send out an email to gather consensus on when to start meeting again.

Jim asked for direction on where to go with the current plan given the concerns that were aired, and the lack of access other than for harvesting. The committee directed FoDDix to modify its plan and focus on improving what is currently there, including the possibility of modifying the 1A entrance/exit. Chip should be consulted on his opinion about entrance/exit modification, being a former DOT employee. The question was raised as to whether the wall is on a historical registry or not, and those present did not think it was, but will check. The order of future events should be: discuss DOT entrance/exit with Chip, take update to FoDDix and set meeting date, set a date and host a walking tour with the residents. The following motion was made by Mayor Arnett: The Services Committee asked Gretchen to express the sentiment of the Committee to the Friends of Dorothea Dix Group, with regards to the obstacle to rear access, the Committee would like FoDDix to make further consideration of access off of 1A and improvement of internal access to the river by way of modifying the plan. Councilor Cushing seconded, all voted in favor and the motion carried.

C. Tree Bd/Project Canopy

The Tree Board won the \$6980 grant from Project Canopy and the application was ranked #1 in the state. Sue Lessard signed the grant agreement today. The tentative planting date is 6/27 with a rain date of 6/28. The next Tree Board meeting is 6/10 and will be an in-depth planning session for the day of the planting. There are about 50 volunteers.

D. Pool Board/Scholarship Guidelines

Jim reported that the Pool Board's attorney had reviewed the Town's attorney's changes, and there were no additional significant changes. There has not been a subcommittee meeting yet

to review those changes, but they should be meeting prior to the July Services meeting, so it should go on the July Services agenda. Dan Brown is the Chair of the Pool Board of Trustees, and will be invited to speak at the July Services meeting.

E. Mission Statement

The Chair asked if there were any collective issues with the mission statement as it was approved at the Council meeting on May 04, 2009. No issues noted. The mission statement was unanimously accepted at the April 13, 2009 Services Committee meeting with the following Councilors present: Shannon Cox, Matt Arnett, Tom Brann, Andre Cushing, Jean Lawlis, and William Shakespeare.

3. New Business

A. Two Park Ordinances

There is a Dorothea Dix Park Ordinance as well as a Papermill Road Rec Area Park Ordinance. At the meeting where the committee review the D.Dix ordinance to delete the Reservations section, there were suggestions that a comprehensive overhaul of this ordinance and other related ordinances might be warranted. The two ordinances are almost exactly the same, so it is possible they could be merged into one ordinance. Gretchen will email out the ordinances to the committee to review for the July meeting.

4. Public Comment

No public comments.

5. Committee Member Comments

a) Dog Park

The Chair noted that she has received numerous phone calls regarding setting up a dog park. It was mentioned that Belfast has a great model. Various potential locations were discussed.

b) Community Garden

The Chair has also been receiving phone calls requesting a location be set up for a community garden. Possible locations were discussed in brief as well as logistics – does the site need to have water or would rain barrels suffice, for example. It was mentioned that this might be a great project to coordinate with the school in conjunction with a possible composting program.

c) Comp. Plan Update

Gretchen noted that there may be a meeting by the end of the month. She and Dean have been reviewing the latest draft, sent in hardcopy and on CD.

The next meeting is July 13, 2009 at 6:00pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist