

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Community Services Committee
February 05, 2008 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 05, 2008, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Shannon Cox.

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 Matt Arnett
Jim Feverston
Phil Rapp
Mark McCollough
Wally Jakubas

1. Introductions of new people.

No introductions necessary.

2. Business

A. Tree Board

Tree board creation discussion continued. One application was submitted, and if that person is accepted, it would cover both the horticulturist/arborist and Conservation Commission member positions that are ideally wanted for the tree board. Nancy said she would apply, as well as Jim. Councilor Brann indicated he mentioned it at a Town Council meeting, and it should be advertised. Gretchen indicated she would speak with Denise about getting it on the website and cable channel as well as other public notice avenues.

B. Tree City

Jim Feverston handed in the completed application on time and indicated we should hear back from the Arbor Day Foundation by the end of February.

C. MSAD22

A town meeting was conducted on January 29, 2008 regarding the plans for the old campus of Hampden Academy. Community feedback leaned towards having that campus turned into a community space with green areas included for formal and informal recreation. The Town has first refusal on the property should it go to market, and the town also could purchase it at a discounted fair market value. There is a possibility that the school would hold the property and for a foundation; they are looking for ways to generate revenue. There are a handful of developers that have approached MSAD22 behind the scenes looking to turn the lot into businesses or housing, which may require a zoning change depending on their proposal. The Chair suggested that we should come up with a policy statement on what we think as a Council Committee the school system should consider with regards to doing something with that land.

D. Trail Work

Gretchen contacted the UMaine Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Dept. and was told the best way to gauge student interest in being involved with a summer trails project would be to post a job description on campus. Prentiss & Carlisle will be submitting a proposal to do the harvesting and heavy construction work such as trail repair to fix water damage issues.

The calendar of events and minutes issue was tabled to the next meeting.

3. Comp Plan Discussion

Discussion centered on Forestry and Agriculture, and Chris Shrum provided a handout about these topics as they relate to Hampden based on conversation with Bob. Please see that handout for the bulk of the ideas generated. Other items were brought up:

- TPL's publication Community Forest: A Community Investment Strategy. They are looking for a pilot community. Chris offered to contact them to see if they are interested in having Hampden as the pilot. If/when this happens, once the Tree Board is established, this would move to that committee.

- In previous discussion, there was a proposal to create a local incentive scheme to encourage keeping farms as farms.

- Unanimous agreement to split Forestry and Agriculture into their own respective individual sections.

- Community supported agriculture should be noted and discussed as well as Farmer's Markets

- Ordinances & town policy should be developed so as to locate infrastructure where we want to see development instead of pushing it out into rural areas

- Farmer's could also have the opportunity to sell their development rights to the town, for all or part of their farm. If they get in a financial pinch, we can sell back rights. Alternatively, if they only sold for part of their land, they could reserve a few house lots up front and sell the rights to the rest.

- Large expanses of forest and field are needed, not small fragmented bits scattered here and there.

- Clear cutting not an issue, but we do need a forest management ordinance to address three items of concern:

- 1) poor forest management
- 2) liquidation
- 3) loggers vs. foresters

There are loopholes in state law pertaining to all of these that need stricter attention, not just for the sake of ecology, but also to protect the citizens as in the case of point #3.

The next meeting is *February 12th* at 6:30pm for ComServ and 7pm for Comp Plan discussion.

4. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist