

**Minutes  
Hampden Town Council  
Services Committee  
February 09, 2009 @ 6:00pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, February 09, 2009, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Shannon Cox.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist  
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director  
Councilor Shannon Cox  
Councilor Matt Arnett  
Councilor Jean Lawlis  
Councilor Andre Cushing, arrived at 6:25pm  
Jim Feverston  
John Mahoney  
Jane Jarvi  
John Kenney, WBRC  
David Moyse, Moyse Environmental  
Ray Bolduc, WBRC

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for 12/02/2008 were motioned for approval by Councilor Arnett with a second by Councilor Lawlis. All voted in favor, minutes approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Lawlis and seconded by Councilor Arnett to move the MSAD22 agenda item to the top of the agenda so the guests that are presenting that topic can present their info and then leave. All voted in favor, so the MSAD22 material was presented first.

**2. Old Business**

**A. D.Dix Update**

Jim Feverston reported on the work relating to Dorothea Dix Park to date. The property owner of Map 46 Lot 8 is the one that owns the 20ft strip access to the park according to the town attorney. Councilor Arnett and the Town Manager will contact the owner and try to talk to them about purchasing the 20ft strip. The owners may not even be aware they own the piece. There was a short discussion about where the monies would come from for that purchase and what type of precedent it would set. The money would come from the Land

Acquisition/Conservation Recreation Area Fund, the purpose of which according to the Recreation Director Kurt Mathies is for a purchase of this type.

**B. Tree Board Update**

- Jim Feverston reported on the work of the Tree Board to date. The TreeBd will be hosting a Hampden Big Ol' Trees contest to try to drum up interest in Hampden's trees and possibly find a tree in Hampden that could go in the State's register of big trees. There are specific things that need to be measured about each tree and help for those interested will be available at the town office by contacting Gretchen Heldmann.
- The board is also looking to run educational videos on the TV channel in the month of May. Gretchen mentioned that the VHS tapes could be converted to DVD by our media interns and it was agreed that was a good idea.
- The board has continued to work on their tree plan per the requirements of the Tree Ordinance, and they have also continued to work on a list of acceptable trees and shrubs. The list of acceptable trees and shrubs is being developed as an educational item that would contain native species and would identify them based on their tolerance for pH requirements, shade & salt tolerance, drainage, etc.
- There has been a continuing discussion on how to manage the invasive species at D.Dix Park, with the most recent information presented by Gretchen demonstrating how Japanese Barberry can be controlled and eradicated with propane torches. The board would prefer not to use broadcast chemical means to manage invasives in the park.
- The board has recently changed their meeting time to be the 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month based on the changes in Council committee meeting times.
- Three residents attended a recent Project Canopy grant workshop and they would like to submit a grant. The group discussed possible projects and came to the conclusion that the plantings at the pool would be a good project. Plantings at the pool have already been looked at, thought out, laid out, and there is general consensus about doing plantings at the pool. The three attendees will work with the Tree Bd to develop the grant and it will be coordinated and submitted through Gretchen.
- The board will be receiving flats of tree seedlings from the state and they will be working with the school during Arbor Day week to plant the trees on school property.
- Gretchen reported that she attended a vernal pool workshop and will be able to visit the wetland area in D.Dix Park in the spring to help identify if it is a vernal pool or not. She will also attend another training.
- Councilor Lawlis stated that regarding any plantings and the harvesting to be done, that some greenhouses might exchange wood chips for trees and shrubs.
- Kurt reported that on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm there will be a meeting at the Hampden Municipal Building about the Friends of Dorothea Dix Park Group.
- Chairperson Cox read a short bit from The Weekly newspaper about D.Dix Park.

**C. Gazebo Update**

As agreed on last time, Gretchen will print and frame certificates of appreciation to be presented at a Council meeting and Kurt will order a plaque to be put at the gazebo. Councilor Lawlis motioned with Councilor Arnett second to take this concept to the Council for approval and all were in favor. The meeting at which the certificates would be presented would tentatively be the second Council meeting in March. Kurt also has a binder with pictures documenting the gazebo moving process if anyone is interested.

### **3. New Business**

#### **A. MSAD22 Wetland Mitigation**

John Kenney from WBRC presented information about the school project. The project will be impacting between 2-3 acres of wetland on school property. The Dept. of Environmental Protection and Army Corps of Engineers require mitigation for wetland impact of a ratio of 15:1 for preservation. That is, the school could choose to preserve wetlands in another area, at 15 times the numbers of acres impacted (in this case 30-45 acres). The options range from preservation to fee in lieu and many combinations in between. The area to be set aside must consist of wetlands and uplands and must be set aside in deed-restricted perpetuity with the easement to be held by a third party. The school approached the town about a month ago and had a meeting between school officials, their engineers, and town staff about possibly using some town land for the wetland mitigation. Discussion lead towards setting aside land on the "LL Bean" parcel that has been discussed extensively as being part of the "town forest" concept. MSAD22 needs to file an application by the end of the month and is looking for an intent from the committee that this is an agreeable situation. No plans need to be finalized in detail until the school is to be occupied, 2.5 years out. The committee was agreeable to the idea considering it has already been discussed to be set aside anyway. Councilor Lawlis motioned with Councilor Arnett second to bring this issue to the 2/17 Council meeting, all voted in favor.

#### **B. Communications Committee**

The Mayor has had discussions with the Town Manager about who these activities will continue to be carried out. There is a possibility that the responsibilities would be shifted to the Planning & Development Committee. This switch was questioned because the work of the former ComCom is seen as a service to the community and not a planning and development issue. Chairperson Cox put this item on the agenda to confess that she simply did not have the time to commit to ComCom and she did not want to see it get left behind. Councilor Cushing offered to re-solicit the previous level of citizen involvement that ComCom saw before becoming a Council committee. Councilors Arnett, Cushing, and Cox will work with the Town Manager to figure out how it would best work.

#### **C. Mission Statement**

At the next meeting the group will look at the mission statement, so members should look at it ahead of time and bring recommendations to the meeting. It was suggested that creating a flowchart would also be helpful so it is clear how all the committees under Services relate to each other and back to the committee.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Jim Feverston asked to discuss Comp Plan items. He wanted to know if it would be okay to have the Tree Bd members look at the forestry and other related sections of the plan and provide comment to bring to the next comp plan meeting, same with the pool board looking at relevant sections and making comments. All agreed that was acceptable so long as the changes were not significant context-wise and the original intent was maintained. For example, the forestry section assigns many responsibilities to the Conservation Commission when they should probably be the Tree Board- but at the time of drafting the Tree Board had not been formed yet. All the material is on the website anyway for public viewing.

A question was raised about membership, and Chairperson Cox noted that official voting membership are councilors only, but that residents are wanted to continue to participate. Councilor Arnett noted that the councilors usually vote with the consensus of all present including residents.

#### **5. Committee Member Comments**

No additional comments.

The next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm with a motion by Councilor Cushing, second by Councilor Lawlis and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann  
GIS/IT Specialist