

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Community Services Committee
September 18, 2007 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairman Tom Brann.

Councilor Thomas Brann, Chairman
Councilor Shannon Cox
Bob Osborne, Town Planner
Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Jim Feverston, Pool
Chris Shrum, EMDC
Gayle Zydlewski, CBWC
Nancy Chaiyabhat
John Mahoney
Andre Cushing

1. Introductions of new people.

No introductions necessary.

2. Old Business

A. Forest Mgmt. Plan - D. Dix Park

To summarize, the plan includes some basic work to clean up the park, tend to the health of the forest, and overall create a more park-like setting with some trail networks and benches. All present agreed with the concepts and agreed to send it forth to the Council for approval and discussion and further recommendations by Councilor Brann.

B. Tree Committee/ Tree City USA

It was decided after some discussion that the ordinance is good as is, with the exception of a few items such as a clear definition of rights-of-way. All present agreed that language specific to handling conservation easements should be scrutinized by Town Attorney Tom Russell.

C. Misc. Other

Gretchen had sent in a registration form on behalf of Jim Feverston to attend the first ever tree summit in Lewiston/Auburn, but it was unfortunately post-poned until spring time. She also contacted Steve Eyles, trail master for the Goodwill Riders

Snowmobile Club in town and discussed the importance of their input at the comp plan discussion, especially with regard to the rural areas. He stated he would try to attend or at least comment via email on the minutes. He also confirmed that there is a club meeting in the beginning of October where he will try to track down the digital file version of their GPSed trail network.

3. Comp Plan Discussion

Chris went over the memo he had prepared that looked at the current comp plan table of uses and how they relate to today. He went over the General Rural Guidelines we have been discussing as well as the ideas we have discussed regarding Residential Development.

We looked at maps Gretchen had prepared that showed tree growth parcels, forested parcels, parcels in the farm or open space program compared to lands identified as agriculture on the land cover map, etc. The Conservation Commission wants to re-look at their interpretation of critical conservation areas in light of new discussion from the Comp Plan group, basically to take a closer look at connectivity for the purposes of recreational trails and wildlife corridors. They also want to do some further GIS analysis to obtain areas of the proposed conservation areas, compared to total town area, compared with what is already owned in those areas, and how many landowners are in those areas.

There was some discussion about the need to alter the intersection of Meadow, Canaan, and Patterson roads to have a better, safer intersection.

Chris was asked to look into more detail regarding a WBRC development in Belfast that was highly controversial at first, but eventually agreed upon by the developer and that developer ended up making more money off of the conservation design subdivision due to savings on road lengths, etc. Some solid numbers or other details would be nice to present as a local case study of the argument for conservation design subdivisions.

Also discussed was the "business friendly" concept and it was quite clear there were two thoughts regarding the definition of business friendly. One thought was big-box store friendly, which would drive out all small town local stores and thus a certain community atmosphere element would be lost. The other thought was the opposite, being small business friendly and retaining the history of being a little village, but possibly losing out on tax revenue from a big box. Along the historic village line, Nancy stressed that she really would like to see more of a historic village feel in the downtown area, with little boutique shops and some more greenery. Andre suggested eliminating curb cuts along 1A near the pharmacy and Academy, essentially combining four entrances into one, and putting a sidewalk on both sides to encourage pedestrian traffic.

The next meeting is October 2 at 6:30pm for ComServ and 7pm for Comp Plan discussion.

4. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist