

**Hampden Conservation Commission
January 30, 2007 Meeting
Minutes**

Present: Ed Steltzer (Chair), Don Katnik, Bob Osborne, Mike Robbins (minutes).

A. Introduction of Guest: Not necessary this month.

B. Minutes from the November 2006 meeting: Minutes were accepted.

C. Old Business

1. Open Space Mapping: Mapping of open space on paper is completed. A computerized layer for it should be completed this Spring.

2. Dorothea Dix Park: The survey of park boundaries is under way.

3. Conservation Award: The Town Council Ordinance Committee has not reviewed proposed criteria yet.

4. Vernal Pools: Prentiss & Carlisle will try to identify vernal pools via aerial photos. Follow up field site visits will be necessary but the aerial photo interpretation will probably not be completed soon enough to do so this Spring.

5. Recommendations for Green Space Signs: We will work up a short list of places, in addition to Dorothea Dix Park, to possibly start with. The possibility of putting a map of trails on the town web site, with information about trail difficulty, was raised and discussed.

6. Recommendations for Fish Warden: Bob is planning to invite the warden from Orrington or Winterport to the February to discuss this with us.

D. New Business

1. Land Use Priority System and Smart Growth Overlay System: Further work will be called for in coming months. Once the open space map layer is created we will be able to work with Beginning with Habitat information and information generated by the Prentice and Carlisle aerial photos to identify key areas for conservation, forest management, other natural features and vernal pools.

2. Community Service Committee (CSC): There has been discussion in the CSC about forest management in the former LL Bean property and some other town owned properties. Gretchen went to the Project Canopy workshop this year. The feasibility of concepts for a project that would fit with obtaining a Tree City designation are being evaluated.

The LL Bean parcel has also been mentioned for a potential park, as has property north of the marina on the river. A Comprehensive Plan update is in the offing.

3. Trail mapping: The snow mobile club has the major trails mapped.
4. Officers for 2007 should be selected at the February meeting.

E. Town Planner's Report:

1. Northeast Timber development proposal on the Kennebec Road: Mr. Williams has added 5 acres that will help in avoiding wetlands when the road is put in.
2. Conservation Commission Ordinance: Bob will ask Denise to provide us with the current status of our terms of membership. There is a sunset clause on the ordinance so we need to get the terms synchronized with the language in the ordinance and request its continuation.
3. 2008 Budget: We should decide our budget request soon (February meeting?).
4. Tree Growth Tax Law & other land conservation tools: Although approximately 400 properties appear to be eligible, only 4 are taking advantage of the Tree Growth Tax Law. Discuss followed on working up and offering information to townspeople about that program, conservation easements, etc. The town web site, a mailing, and a workshop were all mentioned as vehicles for disseminating this information.

F. Next meeting date: Next full meeting of the HCC will be February 27, 2007 at 7.