

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Community Services Committee
August 19, 2008 @ 6:00pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Shannon Cox.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Councilor Shannon Cox
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Matt Arnett
Sue Mock
Jim Feverston
Kay Carter
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Bob Osborne, Town Planner
John Mahoney
Chris Shrum, EMDC
Dean Bennett, Community & Economic Development Specialist

1. Introductions of new people.

No introductions.

2. Business

A. Minutes Acceptance

No minutes available to be accepted.

B. Dorothea Dix Park

Discussion began by noting the results of the Council meeting in that they approved funding the legal work needed to determine the status of the road going through the back of the park. Gretchen will email all gathered in-house information (deeds, surveys, maps, etc) and send it to the town attorney.

The email received mentioning vernal pools in the park was discussed and it was left to the consultants at Prentiss & Carlisle to follow up on this issue. There are no know GIS data layers depicting vernal pool locations or any known data sources listing significant vernal pools. Councilor Cox will contact Conservation Commission Chair Don Katnik to follow up to try to find more information.

A large focus of discussion was the recent and on-going confusion about which groups are meeting when to discuss what. ComServ, FoDDix, TreeBd and others are all interested in the work on D.Dix Park and they all have separate meeting times. Town staff have had issues lately in trying to coordinate everyone's schedules, and have found it frustrating that multiple groups are meeting during the week to discuss the exact same topics as discussed at a meeting on a previous night in the same week. Councilor Cox stressed that there is no need for duplicate work, and the ComServ is the over-arching committee above all others. It was decided that the ComServ meeting time will be used to discuss D.Dix Park issues. Comp Plan discussion will be moved to another night. Other committees may meet during their regularly scheduled times, but they should be working on other issues not related to D.Dix Park. As of right now, D.Dix Park work hinges on the legal opinion about the road going through the park and the verification of vernal pools, so other committees are free to work on their other tasks.

From that discussion, the role of the Tree Bd was brought up, and it was noted that they have other tasks to pursue at the moment such as creating a master tree plan as outlined in the Tree Ordinance, as well as coordinating plantings at the pool, giving input on MSAD22 plantings and more. Councilor Brann stated he wanted to see the Tree Bd be a more active part of the site review process, and so the committee voted to ask the Council to put the Charter and Ordinance Committee to work on incorporating the Tree Bd into the site review process.

Also from the group roles discussion, a member brought up the idea of creating an interim committee that had representation from all committees: ComServ, Tree Bd, FoDDix, Rec, Pool, etc etc. They would meet at a set time and if the time was not good for a given rep, they would choose another to go in their stead to the meeting, or that person would follow up with other reps to get meeting notes. The group should exist for a finite time and then morph into a permanent group. The interim group would develop how the final group would work. This item may be discussed at the next meeting if the committee decides it would be a better way to go if the scheduling conflicts still cannot be worked out.

C. Comp Plan Discussion

Comp plan discussion began at 7:15. Community & Economic Development Specialist Dean Bennett presented a few items:

- historical overview of the comp planning process in Maine
- state mandated comp plan goals
- state mandated comp plan elements
- what has been done regarding Hampden's Proposed Land Use Map
- two maps: Proposed Land Use Map, Natural Resources Constraints Map

Dean and Gretchen worked extensively over the days between the Council meeting on 8/11 and the meeting on 8/19 to develop two maps, a Proposed Land Use Map and a Natural Resources Constraints Map. These maps summarize all of the legal regulations the town must adhere to as well as summarize and incorporate all of the work the committee has done to date.

The Natural Resources Constraints Map shows the proposed changes to Shoreland Zoning that town staff have been working on for months. These changes are only proposed and the SZ should be considered a draft. These changes will keep the town in line with the newest version of the SZ laws; our maps and ordinance must be changed by July 2009. If any of you have further questions about this or any part of either map, please contact Gretchen.

Dean would be happy to answer questions about any other part of the presentation. You can reach him at dlbhampden@hotmail.com or by calling the town office.

The next meeting for Comp Plan is September 9th from 6-8pm and will mark the end of the data inventory gathering process.

The next meeting for ComServ is September 16th from 6-8pm and the focus will be discussion of Dorothea Dix Park.

4. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist