

**Minutes  
Hampden Town Council  
Services Committee  
March 08, 2010 @ 6:00pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:12p.m. on Monday, March 08, 2010, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Jean Lawlis.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist  
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director  
Councilor Jean Lawlis, Chair  
Councilor Tom Brann  
Jim Feverston  
Steve Eyles, Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for 02/08/2010 were approved.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Subcommittee Updates**

Tree Bd – The Tree Board has been working on finalizing their recommendations for Dorothea Dix Park, and in the process of doing so they realized they in fact did not have consensus as to what they wanted to submit to Services and then Council. After their last meeting, Gretchen reviewed past Tree Bd meeting minutes as she remembered a past discussion about what to include in the final recommendations. She edited the August 8, 2008 Tree Bd to Council memo to reflect the decisions made at the Tree Bd's August 26, 2009 meeting, where consensus at the time was to remove all but the harvesting recommendations. She emailed that out, which caused concern among some Tree Bd members who did not recall the details of that meeting. Therefore, the final recommendations were not able to be brought to the Services Committee tonight. Tree Bd will re-discuss and re-evaluate at their meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month.

A discussion then ensued as to what should be included in the final recommendation, as the Council had tasked Tree Bd with developing the vision for D.Dix Park, which goes beyond submitting just harvest recommendations. Kurt pointed out that it was not a good idea to have Tree Bd develop the vision and then impose it on the Friends of D.Dix Group. It was then discussed what exactly "vision" meant – and it was agreed that it meant a very general 30,000ft type of view of what the park is meant for – it does not mean details such as where to put trails, where to put a pavilion, etc. Councilor Brann indicated that he felt that the original Tree Bd memo was maybe 25% vision and the rest was too detailed. He indicated he wants the Tree Bd

to extract the general vision into a separate document to be submitted alongside the specific harvest recommendations. The question that should be answered is, “What is the purpose of this park?”

FoDDix – there is no chair yet of the group and they are waiting to see who emerges as a leader. The next meeting is 03/23. The group is planning a fundraiser of a 3K walk/run on 05/01/10 with a small entry fee. The group has already identified their first priority for the park which is to install water in the park again. About five years ago, Kurt got an estimate that it would cost around \$5K to do that.

Dog Park – next meeting is Thursday 03/11/10.

### **3. New Business**

#### **A. Cool Communities**

Tabled to the next meeting as Shelby was not able to make the meeting to present information on this topic.

#### **B. Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club**

Steve Eyles, Trailmaster, presented some info on the club and it’s trail system. He handed out three pages, one from Maine Snowmobile Association, one of a map of the trails, and one about the landowner liability law in Maine. There are about 37 miles of trails. Landowner permission is mostly verbal. Signs are put up in Sept/Oct and taken down around March/April. The system is meant to be a snowmobile trail system, as the bulk of the trails are very rough. Many trails are stumpy, bumpy, wet, and so forth – all of which are not an issue during winter when the ground is frozen and there is snow pack and ice on top of the trail. The club does maintain the trails by grooming them during the season, trimming brush, and installing bridges as needed. The club works with developers to move trails as needed to accommodate new development, though the club has rarely encountered resistance to the trails or needing to move them. The system is pretty much the same as the first design in the mid-70’s, the club having formed in the early 70’s. While the trails are never officially closed, landowners do control their piece of the system since it is their land, and the only official use is snowmobiling. The club does have permission from ExxonMobil and the US Government to use their pipelines as trail segments, and they have official correspondence somewhere to support that. Steve indicated it would not be okay to publicize the trail system as a year-round multi-use system for the reasons mentioned earlier relating to trail conditions, landowner agreements, and the official use. Landowner permission would be key in order to develop a multi-use year-round system, as well as lots of capital expenditure to improve trail conditions. ATV use may pose an issue because the trails are close to residential areas. There are 452 registered snowmobiles in Hampden. Membership to the club is \$20/year for a family/individual membership which includes a newsletter and a life insurance policy through Maine Snowmobile Association.

Snowmobiling brings an estimated \$350 million to the state budget annually. There are grants available through MDOT and BPL to improve trail systems. The committee voted and approved to have Kurt research these opportunities.

**C. Google Fiber Initiative**

Gretchen informed the committee of the Google Fiber Initiative and stated that if she had time before the tight deadline of 03/26, she was going to try to submit an application. The website has more detail at <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/> and she noted the application is estimated to take at least four hours. The initiative is in line with the comp plan, so there was no need for approval, this was more of an informational piece.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**5. Committee Member Comments**

The next meeting is April 12, 2010 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann  
GIS/IT Specialist