

**Minutes  
Hampden Town Council  
Community Services Committee  
January 17, 2007 @ 7:00 pm**

**Attendance List:**

Councilor Tom Brann, Chairman  
Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist  
Robert Osborne, Town Planner  
Donald Katnik, liaison to Conservation Commission  
Councilor Andrew Colford  
Councilor Shannon Cox  
Gayle Zydlewski, liaison to Cove Brook Watershed Council  
John Mahoney  
Jim Feverston

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Dorothea Dix Boundary Survey**

Gretchen Heldmann indicated that the Company is still working on the boundary, but all is going well.

**B. Prentiss & Carlisle Update**

Gretchen stated that the Project is on hold due to a grants funding issue. Apparently funding comes out of Project Canopy, not Woods Wise- so the workshop Gretchen was already signed up for on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> will apply to the two P&C projects as well as the Tree City USA goals. There has been hinting from the Proj. Canopy coordinator that all three can be funded.

**C. Contact With Betsy Chapman**

Gretchen stated that she did finally get a chance to call Betsy's cell phone and leave a message. She will continue to try if she does not hear back from her.

**D. Mission Statement**

Gretchen provided the committee with copies of the work that three people contributed to the development of the mission statement, but all suggestions are under the revision and approval of the chair. Councilor Brann has some added ideas he would like to work into the statement. Thank you to those that contributed sentences via email or thoughts during the meeting. Councilor Brann asked the committee to think about how the statement could incorporate a feeling of community services, as Hampden is "not a bedroom community for Bangor, but a family-oriented community". He would like more focus on other community services, not just development vs. open space.

**E. BDN Article**

Gretchen stated that the BDN Article came out Thursday, January 18, 2007, State Section B2. Very well written and fairly neutral, but cannot seem to find a link online for those of you who did not get a chance to see it.

**F. F & B Documents**

No discussion occurred after all Old & New business was attended.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Membership Application Process**

Councilor Brann informed us that although we are an active, recognized committee of the Town Council, comprised of three councilors, we do not have or need an official membership process for residents. (Jim had made an application to join the committee). Councilor Brann said something to the effect of 'any resident that wants to participate just needs to attend the meetings. We are open to anyone and everyone with an interest in Community Services.' As a committee it is acceptable for us to invite parties or groups that we feel are needed.

**B. Draft Letter to Landowners**

Gretchen stated that this is on the agenda because she had a discussion with Vivian Gresser, Town Tax Assessor that there are a few residents in town and those that live out of town who own unused tracts of land that are disgruntled about having to paying taxes. However, at least one landowner has made mention that although she dislikes paying the taxes, she is reluctant to sell her land because she does not want it to be developed. So, Gretchen had the bright idea of reaching out to such landowners to persuade them to donate the land to the Town by deed or conservation easement.

One person at the meeting suggested alternatively the town could lease the tax amount from the landowner, specify that the landowner still owns the land, but the lease details that the land is now available for public use. The difference from a conservation easement is that this lease could be terminated fairly easily compared to a conservation easement which tends to be more terminal. These leased lands could then be managed by way of a land trust.

Gayle Zydlewski suggested we should proceed with creating a land trust, and she offered to contact other land trusts to see if they would come speak to our committee. It was suggested by someone that in order to show we are serious about forming this group, which would be separate from our committee, that the town should put the "LL Bean" parcel into the trust as a starting point.

As of right now, the town has no set plan or standards of what to do if a landowner were to call and indicate interest in donating land or an easement, so this

land trust would help that issue. It was also brought up that although we may ideally like a certain tract of land, we sometimes would have to take what is available when land is for sale. It was pointed out that a land trust would greatly help landowner relations, and that securing our ideally desirable land is not out of the question.

Other ideas included creating a pamphlet to have in the office as well as to possibly put in mailboxes, and to have a blurb in the next town newsletter. We first need to come up with a solid line of command as to how the town would handle these situations.

**C. Draft Letter to Dorothea Dix "interested" Parties**

Gretchen put this on the agenda as a follow-up to our recent discussion of the D. Dix Park wall damage. She thought that since there are other groups with a vested interest in Dorothea Dix and her legacy, we should contact those groups by way of a formal letter, in order to start a "Friends of D. Dix Park" or something similar along with a fundraising effort. Councilor Brann noted that since it was originally Sandy Arnett that brought this up on behalf of Hampden Garden Club, that she may be interested in spearheading this effort at least initially to draft a letter and get the effort started.

Gayle Zydlewski brought up the recently announced "Support the Riverfront Community Development Bond to Promote Sustainable Development along Maine's Rivers" effort put out by the Atlantic Salmon Federation. The one page info sheet she brought to the meeting displays points about why it is important to support the \$25 million Riverfront Bond. She pointed out that since D. Dix Park is on the Penobscot River, it is possible that if Hampden were to apply and/or support this bond in some way, we may be eligible for some money to help with the restoration project. Gayle will keep in touch with Gretchen as to how the town can support this bond effort.

It was also mentioned that we should ask Hughes Bros and Lane Construction to come in and speak to us from their point of view about the waterfront development that is possible regarding the racino/casino going up in Bangor. We are interested in gaining access from one of their riverfront lots to create a public access area for a small boat launch and beach/picnic area. The lots are desirable because they have the last small section of non-forested/lightly forested riverfront area that also does not have a steep drop-off and provides a vista to the river.

**D. PowerPoint Presentation**

This part of the meeting was to acknowledge the efforts made by John Mahoney, who spent a considerable amount of time putting together 50-something slides of information and framework for our informational PowerPoint we had hoped to create to present to residents at a town forum type of meeting. John sent the ppt to Gretchen, who will take a turn editing and adding information. Any and all of you are welcome to stop by and take a look at it and/or help with its formation.

**E. Meeting Time Change (added to agenda at start of meeting)**

Gretchen stated that at this point in time, about 3-4 people have made mention now that Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> of the month are not the best meeting time for them. Tuesdays 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> were suggested as an alternative. This depends on Gretchen's class schedule, as she has a class she may drop that meets Tuesday evenings. Councilor Brann noted that without her as the "task master", meetings would not be as effective.

**F. Mitchell Center Series (added to agenda at start of meeting)**

Gayle Zydlewski brought in some information for Councilor Brann regarding a seminar/workshop series organized by the University of Maine Mitchell Center. She gave Councilor Brann the information on workshops/meetings she thought may be beneficial to our committee, and he will take a more detailed look at the information.

**3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING/ TO-DO LIST**

- Go over Falmouth and Brunswick documents and make notes of things you like and do not like, so we have something to discuss next meeting. Go to [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com) and on the left menu there is now a tab for Town Committees, click this and then click Community Services Committee and then Documents to Download, all are sub-parts on that left menu. *Please be sure to read the directions posted!!*

- Continue working on mission statements for Community Services Committee as well as Tree Subcommittee, and email to Gretchen.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 6, 2007