

**Minutes  
Hampden Town Council  
Community Services Committee  
November 13, 2007 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at the Hampden Municipal Building.

Bob Osborne, Town Planner  
Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist  
Jim Feverston, Pool  
Chris Shrum, EMDC  
Nancy Chaiyabhat  
John Mahoney  
Mike Avery  
Councilor Matt Arnett

**1. Introductions of new people.**

No introductions necessary.

**2. Business**

**A. Tree Ordinance**

Gretchen reported on the results of the tree ordinance being presented to the Council: The Tree Ordinance passed the Town Council's approval on November 5, 2007. There was quite a lot of discussion regarding funding the forester position and committing to future projects. It was mentioned that the Council has already invested significantly in forestry-related projects such as the management plans and the land cover map. Stanley Abraham spoke in favor of the ordinance, and no one spoke against the ordinance.

**B. Regional Open Space Planning**

Gretchen also reported on the results of the Council being presented with a regional open space planning effort: The Council also approved participating in a regional open space planning effort being coordinated by PVCOC and TPL. There was unanimous agreement that they would sign the MOU for this project, but reserve the right to withdraw and not participate in funding the 50 cents per capita if they decide it is not an appropriate project for Hampden. Councilor Brann suggested that the Community Services and Conservation Commission committees look at the regional plan and decide if it is a good project for Hampden.

Gretchen noted that the Community Services committee had looked at this project a while ago, and Gayle and Nancy had even attended one of the preliminary meetings. It was acknowledged at that time to be a good project mainly due to the nature and concept of it. Gretchen will review the project at the next meeting.

### C. Linda Williams Plan

Bob brought to our attention changes made to the Linda Williams project off of Kennebec Rd. They are going for minor subdivision review at this time, to slice off a few frontage lots. They are presenting a small strip around the boundary as open space, with the idea that they are still planning on doing a full out development in the future.

### 3. Comp Plan Discussion

Chris outlined his plan for the next three months, which is how long he thinks it will take to wrap up this process. He wants to use the new rule from the state planning office, and he thinks our plan will be the first in the state to be reviewed under the new rule. Chris feels we can go over two chapters per meeting, as it was recognized that the majority of what was sent out in the chapter was inventory, and really only five pages were to be considered and discussed.

The inventory parts will be worked on by town staff and EMDC. The five page action plan section would be the chapter in the comp plan, with a 30 page appendix of inventory information for that section. This would make for a very small comp plan that contains firm language that people want to know, and that would provide valuable guidance for the Planning Board and Town Council.

This document would be the basis for Council decisions regarding development and re-development of ordinances, and would be helpful for the Planning Board when they are faced with questions on a project that is or is not following the guidelines of the comp plan. It was unanimous that the action plan language needs to be committal and firm.

Discussion of the transportation section followed the new rules checklist, in that it promoted discussion of problem areas Chris can highlight that will be addressed:

#### Sidewalks/Bikeways

- Sidewalks yes! Maybe limit to certain areas: 4 mi sq, 1A, parts of Western Ave.
- Regional connection should be considered, esp. 1A to Bangor under rail trestle- very unsafe
- Bikeways yes! Shoulders should be paved on all roads, esp. 1A to Bangor

#### Traffic

- Kennebec Rd/1A needs light, would help get traffic off Mayo if people could turn out of Kennebec onto 1A in morning/evening
- Mayo Rd very narrow, only 50ft ROW, lots of traffic- enhance both ends of Mayo to include turning lanes

- Create interior road to serve schools
- Canaan, Patterson, Meadow intersection, square off and put up signange
- Level out end of Carver at 1A to make easier to get out if road is icy, better visibility
- Traffic calming devices- planting day lillies at edge of road makes appear as though road is narrower, people slow down
- Speeding everywhere- law enforcement
- Emerson Mill underpass, little visibility

#### Curb Cuts

- Limit curb cuts; redesign 1A to Bangor to reduce curb cuts- right now it is one giant 3 mile long curb cut
- Max width for curb cuts, no more than 45 ft; 100 ft between curb cuts or must serve minimum two businesses- all just suggestions right now
- Andre's good suggestions about reducing curb cuts near Rite Aid discussed

#### Other

- BAT: develop park & ride system for taking BAT or carpooling, possibly using church lots or part of pool lot- increasing cost of fuel makes this option a real possibility, esp. in long term thinking
- Signs to identify truck routes- BACTS identified Cold Brook/1A intersection as needing redesigning so semis can turn from CB onto 1A. Why are trucks on that part of 1A to begin with? Should be on 202 to Western, then to 1A- would need to think about that intersection instead. Come up with truck routes and signage!
- Street lights at all intersections
- Consider investing in town *and* state roads, as state is obviously lacking funding to maintain their roads. Town needs to consider thinking long term and look into digging up bad roads, backfilling with engineered design, and then paving- not doing a band-aid fix of a thin layer of pavement every few years. Invest in doing it right, it is cheaper in the long term. Cost of pavement is exorbitant and probably will not get better.

The next meeting is *December 4<sup>th</sup>* at 6:30pm for ComServ and 7pm for Comp Plan discussion. We will discuss two new chapters which will be sent out ahead of time for review.

#### **4. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann  
GIS/IT Specialist