

AGENDA
Hampden Conservation Commission
May 24, 2005 7:00 PM

1. Introduction of Guest
2. Minutes from April 05
3. Old Business
 - A). Composte Bins Sale - Sue Lessard (web site posting?)
 - B). Status Conservation Ordinance – Sue Lessard
 - C). Membership/submit applications for Conservation Commission
 - D). ATV signage, status web site linkage to MFWL
 - E). Ichabod Lane, Trail clean-up, April 30, 2005
 - F). 04 Tree planting account/balance to Envirothon Team
4. New Business
 - A). Conservation award-05
 - B). Greg Nash - transfer station. Discussion of recycling program/players in curb side trash removal
 - C). Site visits
5. Town Planner's report
6. Next meeting date: June 28, 2005
7. Adjournment

Hampden Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2005

Present: Michael Robbins, Bob Osborn, Mark McCollough, Don Katnik, Greg Nash (Guest) and Wally Jakubas (Secretary)

Discussion with Greg Nash on Improving Recycling in Hampden

In 2003, the state calculated that Hampden recycled 44% of its trash, which is one of the highest recycling rates in the state. We recycled 900 tons of wood in 2003.

The state ranks communities on the percentage of trash that is recycled during a given year. The percentage is calculated as:

$$\text{Percentage of trash recycled} = \frac{\text{weight of recyclable material}}{\text{weight of trash + recyclables}}$$

For Hampden to improve its recycling effort, as the state measures it, we would need to increase the tonnage of material being recycled. Having people do a better job at bringing in cardboard or plastic jugs, would do little to improve Hampden's recycling rate since these items are bulky and do not weigh much (Table. 1). The largest mass of recyclable material comes from asphalt, shingles, and gypsum. Although the Hampden's recycling record might not improve much if such an effort was made, improving the recycling rate of cardboard, bottles, and metals would cut down on the amount of material going to landfills, be environmentally sound, and bring in a minor income to the town.

Table 1 Weights for one truckload of material.

Type of Material	Weight
Shingles	20 tons
Plastic bottles	600 pounds
Cardboard	3 tons
Newspaper	11 tons

Much of what the town recycles costs the town money to dispose of. Depending on the type of material, the town is charged per ton of material and a transportation fee. Rubble from demolition debris is the most expensive (Table 2). Cardboard, plastic, and newspaper bring in \$200 to \$300 per month. On a yearly basis, it costs the town \$400,000 to run the transfer station. There are about 2,500 households in Hampden; therefore, it costs each household approximately \$160 / year to run the transfer station. Approximately 1/3 of Hampden residents have curbside trash pickup, but they still pay taxes to run the transfer station.

Table 2. The amount of money charged the Town of Hampden for Removal of recyclable material.

Type of Material	Disposal Cost	Transportation Cost
Demo Debris	\$98/ton	\$100/load
Wood	\$58/ton	\$100/load
Asphalt	\$60/ton	no charge
Metal	no charge	no charge
Compactor Trash	\$62/ton	\$100/load

Although some communities charge per bag for trash disposal, to encourage recycling, the Town Council is adamantly opposed to these fees.

The question was raised whether we could go back to the practice of making woodchips for people to use from the brush that is brought to the transfer station. Greg replied that chipping wood is very labor intensive. In the past it required 6 workers 2 days a week to chip all of the wood that came in. He does not foresee the town getting involved in woodchipping again.

We discussed reducing the amount of demolition debris using signage (stating the cost), a flyer, putting information on the town website, or changing the location of the debris pile. If a flyer was produced which discussed recycling costs, we could also put information on how people could cut down on the amount of junk mail they receive (a reduction of junk mail would reduce the trash volume) and describe procedures for paint disposal.

Greg suggested that the HCC should do more to advertise the annual hazardous waste disposal day. He also talked about a Universal Waste Program for mercury containing products (TVs, fluorescent bulbs, and computers).

We need a sign at the newspaper recycling container which describes the types of material that are acceptable. People need to know that they can dispose of magazines and other glossy paper products.

Old Business

Minutes were accepted from the last meeting.

Sue Lessard's visit was postponed so that it would not conflict with Greg Nash's time and because Ed could not be present at tonight's meeting.

Wally still needs to draft a letter on ATV use. It was suggested that the letter get broader backing (e.g., it would come from the Commission and Town Council). We discussed the content of the letter. Some members felt that the letter should simply state that if you are a landowner who is concerned about ATV use on your land, that you can now post your land to keep ATVs off it. Alternatively, it was suggested that the HCC should only be concerned about posting wetlands or other land that it is illegal to ride ATVs on. Wally will e-mail a copy of the draft letter around.

Wally reported that the Ichabod Lane trail maintenance project, which the residents and HCC members participated in, was very successful. Water was diverted from traveling down two sections of the trail, the trail bed was raised in two areas, a small foot bridge was made over one drainage area, residents covered part of the trail with woodchips, a culvert was cleared of debris, and branches were trimmed back from the trail. A good time was had by all at the picnic at Wally's house following the trail work.

Don Katnik suggested that the trails at Dorothea Dix Park could also use some maintenance.

The HCC decided to use the remaining funds in our account to help the Hampden Envirothon Team with expenses. Bob Osborn will get documentation of the Envirothon Team's expenses.

New Business

The Conservation Award for 2005 has been tabled until we can have a complete discussion on it.

Sunset Ridge Development

Bob Osborn reported that there is a problem with the road exit on Route 9. Questions were raised on the location of the snowmobile trail in relation to the development. Bob will investigate further. The HCC suggested that they shift the lots to accommodate the trail. We were not impressed by the open space proposal. We suggested putting the open space around the existing snowmobile trail instead of its current location.

We learned that two site plans, for a set of cell phone antenna on the water tower, have been approved.

There were no new subdivision plans.

Tom Bran's student, Gretchen Lescord is doing a summer internship in Hampden. She will be straightening out the town's tax maps and will transition our GIS system from ArcView to Map Info Professional. She is going to catalog the open space areas in Hampden, and make sure we have good information on shore land zoning around streams.

Next Meeting was set for June 28, 2005.