

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

TUESDAY, October 24, 2006

7:00 PM

1. Introduction of Guests
2. September Minutes
3. Old Business
 - Annual report
 - Dorothea Dix Park boundary
 - Conservation Award Criteria – Council
 - Tree Planting
 - Open Space mapping
 - Recommendations for green space signs
 - Recommendation re: fish warden
 - Other
4. New Business
 - Tom Brann
 - Land use priority system
 - Smart growth overlay systems
 - Set meeting task force meeting
 - Other
5. Town Planners Report
6. Next Meeting Date: November 28, 2006 7:00 PM
7. Adjournment

Hampden Conservation Commission
October 24, 2006 Meeting
Minutes

Present: Ed Steltzer (Chair), Mark McCollough, Don Katnik, Bob Osborne, and Mike Robbins (minutes).

A. Introduction of Guest: Not necessary this month.

B. Minutes from the September 2006 meeting: Not available for review.

C. Old Business

1. 2005-06 Annual Report: Draft report reviewed by members. Mike Robbins will send the draft to Wally Jakubas and then submit it.

2. Dorothea Dix Park: A bid for surveying park boundaries is expected soon. Some other legal work may be required by the town attorney for boundary definition.

3. Conservation Award: New criteria need to be worked up, held for next meeting.

4. Tree Planting: The large building project on the east side of Rte. 202 just off the Coldbrook Rd. might not progress because a sewer and water connection would be needed. If the project does not progress a buffer planting along Rte. 202 will not be as pressing.

5. Open Space Mapping: a session to finalize mapping on paper was set for November 21 at 5:30.

6. Recommendations for Green Space Signs: At least two types of signs may be desirable; one type to identify town open space and the second type to mark trails. After some discussion of alternatives for materials the consensus choice was for metal signs on wooden posts. Mark will draft designs, eg., "Town of Hampden Open Space" with Conservation Commission in smaller letters beneath. Symbols indicating allowable activities will go on a second sign. The advisability of blazing boundaries at 5 to 10 year intervals was mentioned.

7. Recommendations for Fish Warden: Bob discussed his conversation with the Orrington Fish Warden, noting that they give one license allowing 4 fishing days per week. The possibility of having the Conservation Commission oversee a fish warden was raised and will be further discussed at the next meeting. Don will call state and federal fisheries personnel to try to further determine the scope of potential responsibility.

D. New Business

1. Tom Brann was not available at this meeting for further discussion.

2. Land Use Priority System: A potential design was discussed that would include both a map noting important areas and a punch list with respect to why the area is important. We then briefly reviewed a draft pit (sand, gravel etc.) ordinance as an example of specifying performance standards.

3. Smart Growth Overlay System: The potential need to identify vernal pools as a habitat in this system and challenges to doing so were discussed. Bob Osbourne noted that vernal pools are not well identified and recent state regulations require a 250 foot set back from significant vernal pools, which are defined by counts of amphibians in the habitat. Don Katnik will check on whether some sort of fact sheet on vernal pools is available for a guide. One strategy discussed to aid in identifying the vernal pools in Hampden was for the Conservation Commission to offer the service of conducting the requisite count for a few critical weeks in the Spring.

E. Town Planner's Report: A four lot subdivision by the dog leg on the Sawyer Road is being planned. Also, the 36 lot Phase 2 of the Hawthorne Ridge development has been approved.

F. Next meeting date: Next full meeting of the HCC will be November 28, 2006