

HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 27, 1991

Members Present: James Clifford, Co-Chairman
Michelle Petillo, CO-Chairperson
A. Reid Bunker, Jr.
Vivianne Marcotte
Alberta True
Peter Tilton, Jr.
Rev. Robert Gollledge

Mr. Clifford called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes - Rev. Gollledge moved to accept the minutes of July 22, 1991 as corrected. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Foss Property - Mr. Bunker said after taking a site walk on the property, he felt the owner is environmentally conscious, and seems to be doing more than is required. Rev. Gollledge said he wished everyone were as sensitive about the environment as Mr. Foss. Mr. Tilton said Mr. Foss put in an underground pool that was larger than needed.

Mr. Clifford said if anything, this proposal would be enhancing the area, since the owner wants to preserve all the wildlife, such as deer and foxes.

Budget Request - Mr. Clifford said that Mr. Richards, Town Manager, has requested that the commission turn in the 1992 budget.

Mr. Tilton said it would be appropriate to say that last year, the commission received no operating budget, even though they always have in the past.

Mr. Bunker said the commission now has about \$5,000.00 in savings. Mrs. True said she felt the commission should ask for an appropriation of \$4,000.00 for operating costs. Mr. Clifford said he'd prefer to ask for \$5,000.00, due to the cost of boundary searches and secretarial expenses.

Conservation Land - Miss Petillo said she's now in the process of looking at tax maps. She will give the maps to the Building Inspector and they will compare them to the wetlands maps. From that comparison, they will determine what is conservation land.

Mr. Tilton suggested getting an idea of where the land is located, and then asking owners not to auction it off, because it's conservation land. He said he would ask engineer Richard Millette how much a surveyor would charge.

Norman and Margaret Chabot - 12 Battcock Ave. - Miss Petillo said the petitioner is proposing a deck extension. She said the wetlands Board wrote to say they would suspend action until they receive written action from the conservation commission within 40 days of the date they filed, which was July 22.

Mr. Clifford said August 29, (2 days after this meeting was held), would be the deadline on the 40 days. Miss Petillo said she would call the coastal office to get an extra 5 days if possible.

Mr. Tilton said he thinks the commission could let it go,

because it's the state buffer that would be encroached upon.

Mr. Tilton moved that the commission not object to the petition of Norman and Margaret Chabot unless a site inspection reveals a difficulty and as long as the construction is as proposed, with pilings and not a poured foundation. Rev. Colledge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tedesco - 72 Mooring Drive - Miss Petillo said this petition was a proposal to add to an existing porch.

Mr. Bunker said he would object to this petition without having the details. Mr. Tilton said if the owners are local, they could meet with commission members when they go for a site inspection.

Coastal Management Priorities - Miss Petillo said she received a memo from the Office of State Planning asking the commission to decide which coastal management programs, including wetland, coastal hazards, and marine debris, are the most important. Mr. Tilton said he had already answered that form.

Salt Meadow Condominiums - Cusak Rd. - Mr. Clifford said he has read an advertisement stating that the Salt Meadow Condominiums were under the jurisdiction of the Rockingham County Conservation Commission. He asked why it wasn't under the Hampton Conservation Commission's jurisdiction instead.

Mr. Tilton said there's no such entity as the Rockingham County Conservation Commission. He said there is a Rockingham Conservation District, but he said they would not have jurisdiction, since they're only an advisory group.

Mr. Clifford said there was another group of condominiums mentioned under the same premise. He said he would look for the advertisement.

Municipal Law Lecture Series - Miss Petillo announced the lecture series would be held in September and interested commission members could sign up.

Commission Cabinet in Library - Miss Petillo said the library gave permission for the commission to have a file cabinet in the basement. The public would have access to the cabinet. She said material like the Army Corps of Engineers' guide called, "Are You to Work in a Wetland or Waterway?" would be perfect to submit for the cabinet. Mr. Clifford said the commission could also submit a video about metal residue on the bottom of the harbor.

Miss Petillo added that she would write former commission chairman Stephen Joyce a letter to ask if he has anything to send along to the library.

Mr. Tilton said there were materials in the Planning board workroom in the Town Office that might be good for submission as well.

Members' Residency - Mr. Bunker has moved to Stratham, but found an RSA stating that one doesn't have to be a Town resident to serve on a conservation commission. Mr. Bunker said there should be something in the Selectmen's Meeting minutes stating that the Selectmen approve his continued membership on the commission.

Mr. Clifford said he told the Selectmen he wanted something in writing stating that Mr. Bunker's membership was approved. He said the response he received was that it didn't need to be in writing. He feels that either a letter from the Selectmen or the inclusion in their minutes about Mr. Bunker's approval is necessary. He said they could put it on Monday, September 9's Selectmen meeting agenda that the commission would like a vote of confidence on Mr. Bunker's membership, specifying the RSA.

Rev. Golledge said the note should request his continuation as a member, while pointing out the contribution Mr. Bunker has made and will continue to make to the commission.

Miss Petillo said she would write a letter and have Mr. Tilton review it for approval.

Rev. Golledge moved for one of the commission's chairpersons to direct a letter to the Selectmen validating the continuing membership of A. Reid Bunker, Jr. on the conservation commission until March, 1992. Mrs. Marcotte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Bunker abstained from the vote.

Mace Property - Mr. Bunker said on August 12, Mr. Bunker met with the Selectmen, who voted unanimously to purchase the Mace property. He said he walked the property with commission members and Roger Mace. He talked with Atty. Junkins about getting into a purchase and sales agreement. With the commission's approval, he said he'd like to send a letter to the Mace family stating the commission is exercising its option. Atty. Junkins doesn't want to do a title search, but will prepare the deed. He said he should obtain permission from the Selectmen for Atty. Junkins to work for the commission on future acquired properties. Mr. Bunker said the only thing they're waiting for now is a letter from Shevenelle-Gallen.

Dorothy Ellison Property - Mrs. Ellison is interested in donating 5 acres of marshland to the Town. Mr. Bunker & Mr. Tilton said they met with Ruth Stimson, who showed them where the property is located (which had been the problem in purchasing the property). Mr. Bunker said the commission could recommend that the Selectmen accept this property as a gift.

Mr. Clifford said he didn't want the commission to get into the role of being a tax relief group. Mr. Tilton said if Mrs. Ellison stops paying taxes, the Town will get the property anyway.

Mr. Clifford said the commission members are conservation-minded but are not in the tax relief business. He said the Ellison land can't be developed. Mr. Tilton said it has been the commission policy to take undevelopable land. Mr. Clifford said he wondered how that would be viewed by the people.

Rev. Golledge said the federal government is re-interpreting the definition of wetlands.

Miss Petillo said the commission can look at land and determine that it's undevelopable, but a developer could look at the same land differently.

Rev. Golledge moved for the commission to request that the Selectmen receive this property as a gift. Mr. Tilton seconded the motion.

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Miss Petillo said she could understand Mr. Clifford's concern about setting a precedent on tax relief, but felt personally that the more land the commission can keep from being developed, the better.

Mr. Tilton said it will be the Selectmen's decision.

Rev. Colledge moved the question. Mrs. Marcotte seconded and the commission voted unanimously to move the question.

The commission then voted unanimously in favor of the motion to request the Selectmen to accept the Ellison property as a gift.

Mr. Bunker said this would have to be placed as an agenda item.

Alternate Filling Position - Mr. Clifford said the commission now has seven members, and he proposed to have an alternate fill Mrs. True's position in her absence over the winter. The consensus was that alternate Nathan Edgar, who attended conservation camp last summer, could fill the position.

Adjournment - the commission adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Maureen Cummings
Secretary