

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING
May 22, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selectman Bonnie Searle at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Ellen Goethel, Ms. Bonnie Thimble, Mr. Peter Tilton Jr., Mr. Mike McDermott, Mr. Jim Keefe and Mr. David Joaquin (who joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Ms. Searle had reviewed the Ordinance for parking and signs for Island Path. Mr. Keefe inquired who authorized the changes to the signs on Island Path from "no parking tow zone" to "no parking". Ms. Searle suggested Mr. Keefe contact the Town Manager for the answer. Mrs. Goethel stated that

I. Meeting Decorum

Ms. Searle stated the need to go over the conduct of the meetings. The meetings need to be conducted in an orderly fashion and with respect as the voices can be heard through closed doors. The Selectmen voiced concern to Ms. Searle that the Island Path Committee Meetings were disruptive to the Planning Board Meetings. Ms. Searle will use the gavel only when necessary.

2. Review Minutes

The Minutes of April 17, 2002 were reviewed. Mrs. Goethel motioned to accept the Minutes as amended and to review the tape to correct who motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tilton. With Mr. Keefe abstaining, all were in favor.

Mr. Keefe had asked if the Agenda's were posted for the meeting. Ms. Searle stated that they were posted on the bulletin board in the Town Office. A short discussion ensued on the posting of the agenda's.

3. Tax Map Variations

Mr. Keefe had asked previously about the maps being up-to-date. Ms. Searle went to the Assessor's Office to check on the maps. The maps are different programs than were printed out previously for Ms. Searle. Ms. Searle provided GIS maps with options. Mr. McDermott stated the map had read revised on 4/6/2001. A short discussion ensued.

Ms. Searle gave a review of the clean-up of the site which was done on Saturday, May 4, 2002. About eight people participated on the morning of May 4th. Two of which were high school seniors interested in the environment. There was one pickup truck filled with loose debris and one station wagon full of about 15 bags of debris.

4. Registering the Site with DES

There is a cost to registering the site. The Town has not made a determination to register the site at this time. Mr. McDermott and Mr. Joaquin have contacted State and Federal individuals and have visited the site with same. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Keefe asked if the Conservation Commission/Town of Hampton had to register the site with DES to go on with the project. Ms. Searle again stated that the Town has not made a determination in registering the site.

5. Site Visit by Rockingham County Extension Agent Phil Auger

Mrs. Goethel met with Mr. Auger at the site on May 22, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. They did some pruning of the apple trees and prepared the area where the gravel is going to go.

6. Site Visit by James Barrington, Town Manager and Town Counsel, Mark Gearreald

This visit was the week of May 9, 2002. Mr. Gearreald was quite impressed with the site.

At this time Mr. McDermott read a chain of events from May 3, 2002 to May 21, 2002 which he had written for the meeting. Please refer to Addendum A attached to the Minutes.

Mr. Tilton responded to the comments made on the deception to the public and to the National Security as not being an issue. Mrs. Goethel also spoke to a representative from the Seabrook Power Plant and was told that security was not an issue. Referencing the hazardous waste if the site was drilled, excavated, loaded, sealed, pipes put in, all habitat would be gone. If there were no problem, marsh restoration site and all be excavated and returned to the marsh. Mrs. Goethel also commented on the remarks as being rude, stretched, and using quotes from people that she would like to have each of these people to receive this statement for review as Mr. Tilton was already misquoted. Mrs. Goethel also felt much abused.

Mr. Keefe stated that the residents did not have a problem with the nature walk. They all have a problem with the parking. Mr. Joaquin also stated that there is a major clean-up needed but no problem with the project except for the parking. Mr. McDermott stated he has a major concern with public safety.

7. Parking

Mrs. Goethel motioned to decide the parking issue. Mr. Tilton seconded. A short discussion ensued. The vote was 3 in favor and 3 opposed. Ms. Searle voted in favor and broke the tie vote. Mr. Tilton motioned to have 4 spaces as pull in spaces on the site and 1 space (one of the 4) as handicapped. Mr. Tilton also stated that the boulders could be placed to separate the parking from the vegetation. Also to have two hour limit parking signs and a sign that states closed from dusk to dawn. The town would be responsible for the overview of this area. Ms. Thimble seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor and 3 opposed. Ms. Searle voted in favor and broke the tie vote.

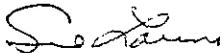
8. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia Fraser spoke in opposition to the issues of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room. Mrs. Goethel will have the engineering plans at the next meeting.

Mr. McDermott motioned to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Keefe. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Launi
Conservation Commission Secretary

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Addendum A

Since our last meeting I would like to state on record the chain of events that have taken place with regards to the Island Path/Dump nature walk.

May 3rd - Mr. Tilton visited the Island. His recommendation left on Dave's voice mail was to fence in the area.

May 9th - I tried to reach Mr. Barrington but he was unavailable. However, I did connect with the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. She was unaware of any Risk management policy in place for public spaces. She agreed to look at the photos of the nature dump and commented that it looked like a terrible liability. WILLFULL ENDANGERMENT!!

Mr. Barrington returned my call at 5:30pm or 6:00pm and we met the following day.

May 10th - Presented a copy of the 1995 D.E.S. report and photos to Mr. Barrington. After reviewing the photos he informed me he visited the site on May 9th and he understood our concern about the willful endangerment. At this time I presented a proposal to Mr. Barrington as to what the Island Path residents would like to see happen.

I also met with Senator Smith's aide, Jeff Rose to express some of the concerns that were gaveled down at previous meetings regarding National Security Issues. After Mr. Rose reviewed the same photos shown to Mr. Barrington and heard what was presented by the Conservation Commission, he wondered where was the common sense to this project. Jeff put me in touch with Seabrook Station to follow through with the National Security Issue. Jeff indicated he would stay in touch.

May 14th - Mr. Workmen and Mr. Warbaughton responded to an invitation to view the property. The same photos were shown and agreed that there are more serious issues with this project. Public Safety concerns was the major concerns - WILLFUL ENDANGERMENT.

They have no interest in having their families visit a site like this in any community as presently proposed and are opposed to fencing in the area. This would prevent the wildlife from utilizing this upland refuge.

May 16th - I received a call from John Giarrusso Jr. of Community Relations at Seabrook Station. We agreed to meet on May 18th.

May 18th - showed the photos and walked the property with John @ Seabrook Station. He also wanted to know "where was the common sense" in this project.

May 21st - I received another call from John @ Seabrook Station. He indicated Seabrook Station was not willing to fund this project as proposed. He also informed me that Seabrook Station was unwilling to assure the public in writing that the proposed parking area is not and never will be a National Security Risk.

What the residents want to propose is to utilize the parking area on East Island Path, the town owned lot.

Phase I - Immediately upgrade the habitat for the wildlife. (ex. mow grass, prune trees)

Apply for permits to remove the hazardous materials and test soil for planting.

Apply for Superfund grant to clean up

Reach-out for donations, this will probably be a 5-10 year plan.

Phase II - Commence clean up after permits are in place and start planting

Start sidewalk construction from East Island path parking to proposed project.

Phase III - Make up signs.

Start figure 9 trail

Install speed bumps

Phase IV - Set signs

Finish planting

Install bike racks