

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING
March 27, 2002

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selectman Bonnie Searle at 7:00. Present were Mrs. Ellen Goethel, Ms. Nancy Olney, Mr. Peter Tilton Jr., Mr. Mike McDermott, Mr. Jim O'Keefe and Mr. David Joquin.

Mrs. Searle asked the Committee Members to introduce themselves.

The first order of business was to set the schedule for future meetings. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, April 10th, Wednesday, April 17th and Wednesday, May 1st starting at 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room.

Mrs. Goethel gave an explanation and history of the State Planning Grant now in progress. In 2000 the Town of Hampton passed an article by Town Meeting Vote to "place a town (5.75+/- acre) parcel of land located on Island Path between Garland Street and #184 Island Path, abutting the marsh, shown on Tax Map #281 Lot #1, under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The Commission will make use of the parcel as an educational area for the study of the marsh and its wildlife.

The Conservation Commission has been working with the Rockingham County Conservation District to secure grant monies for this project. At this time there has been a generous donation from Foss Manufacturing (\$15,000) to be used as matching funds for any grant monies received.

A Public Hearing in 2001 was in response to a grant request made to the Office of State Planning Coastal Program for the amount of \$13,000.

The grant will cover:

1. Survey of the lot (upland only)	\$2,000
2. Wetland delineation by a certified wetland scientist and submission of NH DES wetland permits.	\$1,000
3. Conceptual engineering layout of handicapped access trails and overlook.	\$4,000
4. Design and production of 8-10 interpretive signs.	\$3,000
5. Clear brush and flag out looks and parking (in kind and volunteer)	N/C
6. Preparation of the RFP by the Rockingham County Conservation District.	\$3,000

TOTAL: \$13,000

The Selectmen unanimously voted to select this grant and implement it by June 30, 2002.

Mrs. Searle asked how many abutters were there. Mr. McDermott responded that there were about 75 according to the tax map.

Mr. Joquin asked why was Island Path chosen and why the decision to make it an educational area. Mrs. Goethel read from the 12/31/00 Annual Report, Article 61.

At this time, Mr. Keefe stated that the tax map looked outdated. Mrs. Searle and Mrs. Goethel said it was the latest one.

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

March 27, 2002

Page 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Janet Proudly, 218 Island Path, stated that the traffic was her concern. There are a lot of kids and no side walks. Another concern of Mr. & Mrs. Proudly were that the kids were drinking at night at the site and asked if the neighbors had any recourse on stopping the project. Mrs. Goethel stated that the school bus would not go down a dead end street and that since the project was approved by Town vote, it would take a second Town Meeting vote to stop the plan from continuing. Ms. Pat Fraser asked about the boardwalk and vehicles turning around. Mrs. Virginia Nardone would like to see the project stopped.

Mrs. Goethel answered how the meetings were posted. The Hampton Union is the newspaper of record with 15 press releases written the past several years. There were questions about the abutters not knowing about the project.

Mr. Proudly asked about the gate being locked at night. Ms. Thimble responded that they should call the police if they see anything suspicious.

Mr. Tilton gave a history of the property which is coming back into wildlife habitat from Randall's Town History Vol. II.

Mr. Preston praised the Conservation Commission for all their hard work and efforts and would not hesitate to place any project in their hands.

Mrs. Goethel gave a description of the boardwalk. It's use is to keep people out of saltmarsh and to enhance the habitat.

Mr. Goethel spoke in favor of the project. He stated the need for more green space. He compared the project to the parcel of land next to his home. His property abutts the Marston School property which is now a space for recreation and has enhanced the value of his property.

Dr. Ralph Falk spoke of the walkway in Greenland off Rt 33 on Depot Rd. This walkway is called Sandy Point and urged everyone to go there and see how beautiful it is.

Mr. McDermott would like to see nature take back the area and asked Ms. Olney why the trees were dying off on the berm.

Handicapped parking was suggested by the gate. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

March 27, 2002

Page 3

The topics for the next meeting include:

1. Prioritize the problems on the site and think of solutions.
2. Visit the Sandy Point site perhaps before the next meeting.
3. A new copy of the tax map.
4. Develop a phone list of committee members
5. Discuss handicapped parking.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room.

Ms. Olney motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Goethel. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Launi
Conservation Commission Secretary