

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842**

**Monthly Meeting –March 28, 2013
NH STATE PARK – CONFERENCE ROOM
7 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton Representative

ABSENT: Walter Kivlan, Hampton Beach Village District

Other: Laurie Olivier- Secretary
James Steffen – Town Planner

Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan introduced the members of the Commission.

Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

None

Review & approval of February HBAC Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Preston to approve the March Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. McMahon.

VOTE: 7 -0 – 1 (Griffin absent)

MOTION PASSED.

Appointments

1. None

Chairman's Report

Mr. Nyhan recognized Senator Stiles and said she will speak later regarding the NH capital budget process.

1. Meeting with Hampton Board of Selectmen – 4/1/13

Mr. Nyhan stated that the Board of Selectmen has asked for an annual update from the Commission so Mr. Nyhan will attend the BOS meeting next Monday. Anyone is welcome to attend.

2. Upcoming meeting with Phil Bryce – Re: Operational Management

There is also a meeting set up with Senator Stiles, Dean Merrill, Phil Bryce and Chuck Rage from the Village District. The date of the meeting is next Wednesday. The purpose of this meeting is to provide input on a draft job description for a Seacoast State Parks Supervisor. DRED is proposing this position within their operational budget which if approved would start on July 1, 2013. Mr. Bryce has asked for help regarding the job description.

3. Upcoming meeting with the Governor and new DRED Commissioner

Mr. Nyhan stated he has been invited to meet the Governor Hassan and DRED Commissioner Jeff Rose on Monday at 11:00 AM. Mr. Nyhan will represent the Commission, Mr. Rage will represent Village District and Mr. Merrill representing the Chamber. The intent of the meeting is to provide thoughts and recommendations about the different areas that DRED is responsible to manage within the State. Senator Stiles who was instrumental in setting up the meeting will also be in attendance.

Mr. Griffin arrived.

Treasurer's report (Housman)

Mr. Housman stated the only change from last month is the \$2,000 – the sand sculptor was paid twice. They got the \$2,000 back into the account so the statement is accurate now. The present balance is \$23,000 in the fund.

MOTION by Mr. Rage to accept the Treasurers report.

SECOND by Mr. Watson.

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Old Business

1. Discussion – Transportation Grant – (Watson)

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Agreement with the DOT regarding the grant. It's going to Governor's Council next month. It may be the 17th of April. That is to get the final approval to enter into a formal agreement with the DOT. While waiting for the formal approval, Mr. Nyhan will be meeting with the Rockingham Planning Commission to understand the acceptable areas that we will be able to identify acceptable costs that will make up the \$75,000 in the local share.

2. Discussion - DRED updates (Housman)

Mr. Housman discussed the North Hampton bathhouse. It is on schedule. Outside site work is being worked on. The ribbon cutting ceremony date is being worked on as well. It should be some time in June. The seawall repair work is just about complete. They will start paving the sidewalk and parking lot next week (weather depending).

The meeting with DRED and the Hampton community is Saturday, April 13th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the seashell. They will get information out soon.

The Town, DRED and Keith Noyes of DPW are working on the Joint Operations Plan update and are closing in on a draft.

The Old Time Fair is June 6th through June 9th.

The electronic signs were discussed. With help of Lieutenant Gidley, signs for pay stations will be placed. There will be three locations.

The Department of Corrections will be here the week of April 15th through 19 to help with sand clean up and landscape beds.

On April 1st the bathrooms will be opening up. The "A Street" bathrooms will be open next Monday. Four bathrooms will be open Monday.

A new sign for the Haverhill Street entrance into the parking lot is being worked on. Getting signs consistent was discussed.

RFPs for catering contracts will be going on the April 17th Governor's Council agenda.

Mr. Bryce has a draft of the RFP for the use of the former retail store and it is being reviewed and it should go out next week.

North beach sidewalks were discussed. Old poles/meter poles left some damage and cracks in the sidewalks. Staff is working with the DOT to work on that – starting April 8th.

Mr. Nyhan asked for an update for parking tickets. Mr. Housman stated that 500 tickets were written during month of October; about 473 were paid or appealed. Approximately \$13,000 was received. Operational costs were probably around \$13,000.00. Mr. Nyhan said a person was paid full time to do other duties besides issuing tickets.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the seawall at North Beach and asked Senator Stiles to give an update on the capital budget and the recommended appropriation of \$2.5M to complete the north beach seawall. She stated \$2.5 Million was put into by the Governor. That's half the State's cost. She said parking mete revenue s have to pay for half the costs of seawall repair. The House finished their budget

yesterday and the House cut it in half. She is working with the Senate and will work hard to put the \$2.5M. back in the budget. She is working with Director Bryce, and budget members and Senators. Mr. Nyhan asked what the Commission can do. She will notify us when the hearings start in the Senate.

3. Status: Lupoli Companies - requested meeting by the HBAC (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan still has not heard back from the Lupoli Companies. He put in another request asking for another reschedule. He will continue to work on this.

4. Status: Hampton Town Recreation, HBVD and HBAC meeting regarding Charlie Preston's ideas and recommendations (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan discussed signage. He met with Dyana Martin from the Rec Department. She is completing three bids for signage. The big sign will be the one that Charlie Preston recommended. It will be on Church Street. The section on the bottom of the sign will have changeable event notifications. The HBAC is going to be asked to purchase a sign. He said we would consider it, but we need a cost. Consistency around signage is important. Mike Housman and Chuck Rage will all be consistent so that the signs will look good around the beach.

5. Status: New Development – Green & Company – 339-345 Ocean Blvd.

Mr. Nyhan discussed support on the above status. He submitted a letter supporting the development. He stayed away from height issues. Retail on the first floor and residential being on top was discussed. Mr. Green called Mr. Nyhan today to discuss further development projects at the beach and it was agreed that Mr. Nyhan, Mr. Preston and Mr. Rage would meet with him to discuss his further development plans.

6. Status – HBAC Recommended project to Transportation Ten Year Plan (McMahon)

Mr. McMahon stated the Town submitted the Ocean Blvd. Project as part of the Town's recommendation for projects within the ten year transportation master plan. Mr. Steffen had the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting today and the purpose was to review and prioritize projects. There are 125 projects submitted. The Ocean Blvd reconstruction project fell into the Regional projects. The Rockingham region has so much money per year that will be allocated for transportation. The estimate is in the ballpark of \$22 Million. It scored 18th highest out of all the projects. There were about 104 projects. The TAC recommended some modifications. On April 10th the Policy Committee will meet. They have the final say before it goes to the DOT. Mr. McMahon is on the Committee for Hampton with three others. Mr. Nyhan asked about the history of ranking 18 out of 104. Mr. Steffen said Dave Walker stated 44 projects will be in that budget. He said the DOT will rank and score a bit differently. Mr. McMahon said the priority lists change. He listed factors that change the list. Mr. Nyhan asked what the HBAC should be doing to help with the representatives

from Hampton. Mr. McMahon said contacting the folks would be good and he will do that and Mr. Steffen will do that also.

Mr. Nyhan asked about other projects related to the beach area. Mr. Steffen said the Hampton River Bridge was discussed (it is an unranked project). That project did not get ranked. Other discussion took place about the Rte 101 and the intermodal transportation center along with the church street interchange.

Mr. Watson discussed the process going forward. The first step will be for the Department to do an objective ranking of all the priorities that go to them. It will involve staff, bridge design, traffic, maintenance, etc. They discuss the criteria and the most and the least important criteria. Through the summer they discuss with the Planning Commissions and then the tenure plans go out. Mr. Watson said the budget is a target for each Region. Rockingham Planning Commission can't expect a certain amount of money each year. When a planning commission submits many projects, it gets tough because there is not enough money to fund all projects. The best time for the HBAC to speak up is during the fall. That's when this Commission should get active.

7. Status – Intermodal Project – Public Hearing Notice (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Route 1/101 interchange along with a transit center. He attended the meeting at the Town Hall. About 50 people attended. The design of the interchange was discussed. Making it more user friendly was discussed. Everybody spoke in favor of a transit for a park and ride and for a remote parking center for the Beach. No opposition was heard. Both Portsmouth and Newburyport locations are at capacity; this could be a good site for another park and ride. Getting people from the parking center down to the beach was discussed. Various forms of transportation were discussed on how to transport people in and out of the beach.

8. Status – DRED's RFP and Blue Ocean's application intent (Rage)

Mr. Preston, Mr. Rage and Mr. Nyhan attended a meeting with Kathy Silver and Blue Ocean representatives. Mr. Rage said the meeting went well. This is regarding the former retail space within the park's complex. Mr. Rage spoke with Village Commissioners and they are on board with it. Budgetary and financial requirements will need to be met. The community will then help support the effort. Mr. Nyhan hopes the RFP process will be timely with reviews, etc. Hopefully, tenants get in this summer.

9. Other old business

Mr. Watson looked into crosswalks by State Park entrances. They are exploring many locations. The one by the State park is tough to put in where there's only a sidewalk on one side. That can't put pedestrians in harms way.

Mr. Sawyer asked about a walkway near the entrance to the State Park. Mr. Watson said that would be much better.

New Business

Mr. Nyhan discussed meetings coming up over the next few months. At next month's meeting, NH DOT Clement will be attending our meeting to discuss state, regional and local transportation strategies. Also, it is planned but not yet confirmed that DRED Commissioner Rose will address the Commission at the May meeting.

Mr. Rage stated tomorrow is the annual HBVD meeting starting at 7:00 PM.

Mr. C. Preston said the Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. It is a free event.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mr. McMahon to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Rage.

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary