

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Town Hall-Selectmen Meeting Room
7:00 PM**

March 29, 2012

MINUTES

In Attendance:

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

Excused:

Rick Griffin, Town Selectmen

Other: Laurie Olivier- Secretary

1. Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan introduced the Commissioners.

2. Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

Mr. Charles Preston appeared. He discussed there is an online website, change.org – a petition website. There is a group at the beach who has a petition for the State to get to name the facility the “E Street Bandstand”. He said anyone can search the website and put in “E Street Bandstand”. E Street is the only street missing down at the beach.

3. Review & approval of both January and February Minutes

January 26, 2012 Minutes were reviewed first.

MOTION by Mr. McMahan to accept the Minutes

SECOND by Mr. Rage

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 2 (Mr. Housman and Mr. Watson abstained) MOTION PASSED.

The February 23, 2012 Minutes were then reviewed.

MOTION by Mr. Watson to accept the Minutes

SECOND by Mr. McMahan

VOTE: 7 – 0 – 0 MOTION PASSED.

Appointments –

None

Chairman's Report

1. TSCP Grant Application & TIGER Application – Update

Regarding the TSCP, Mr. Nyhan received word from Senator Shaheen's office that the application is still under review. It was submitted in December for a \$300,000.00 transportation study. Mr. Nyhan is hoping to hear by this summer.

The TIGER application was not sent in and Mr. Nyhan discussed two reasons why it was not submitted. After reviewing details of the application, etc., the amount of information required would have required bringing in a consultant.

Secondly, after discussions with Washington and the DOT (Mark Sanborn), it was indicated that with the history of the TIGER grant and the amount of money available with only 50 applicants being selected, that for Hampton to be competitive, we would need to submit an application that asks for a 40 to 50 percent match.

Mr. Nyhan stated that we did not pull out because of Warrant Article 31 not passing. Although it was voted down, he thinks the Town will continue to look for a solution to the sidewalk issue.

Mr. McMahan thinks it's burdensome to place on one individual and asked how the Commission can approach it differently. He believes all this work should not be put on Mr. Nyhan. He stated maybe the RPC can get on board, as well as the Planning Department. Getting people in to brainstorm on how to answer questions, have a template created and log information to keep it all organized for the application. There is no money to hire a consultant. We need to find a way to write the applications better.

Mr. Watson agreed with Mr. McMahan. He said Mark Sanborn and he need to find resources. TSCP grant money may be able to be given to help with grants. Doing planning now and gathering information now was discussed. Dealing with Planning or DPW is an option. We need to get more assistance.

2. HBAC hosting State Park Open House 3/31 – 10 am – 12 noon

There was a press release sent out indicating that the HBAC is hosting a State Park Open House. Mike Housman stated this Saturday the staff will be coming down from 10:00 am. to 12:00 PM - Staff will go through operating plans and noting when bath houses are open (April 1st), along with other information. Bill Gegas will be there and other staff to give updates and then there will be a question and answer period. There will be a chance for tours after. Mr. Nyhan stated anyone with ideas can attend on Saturday. Mr. Rage said there is an Easter Egg Hunt at that time too so there will be a lot of people down there.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan arrived.

3. HBAC update in 2012 State Park Stage Gala Opening

Mr. Nyhan said the first press release came out this week and the Gala is scheduled for June 1st and 2nd. There is an active committee made up from folks from DRED, this Commission, the Village Precinct, Chamber of Commerce and Hampton Arts Network to name many. Community and business leaders down the beach are helping also. The next meeting will be next Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. at the conference room at the Chamber of Commerce office. Some highlights: On Friday night, the Governor will be present. Verbal invitations are out. State and local dignitaries will be invited and it will be the ribbon cutting event. It will start at 7:00 Friday night. There are three or four entertainment groups playing constant music for the rest of the evening. They have played at the old stage for many years. Then we are looking at fireworks to end the night.

On Saturday, the community will be brought together and local folks in entertainment will participate along with the Hampton Arts Network and the Hampton Historic Society. There are many activities scheduled during the day. Calls have been made to local organizations including Winnacunnet High School for folks to play or sing on stage during the day. During Happy Hour, the Old Bastards will be singing (on Saturday). At 6:00, there will be a formal ceremony with the tribute to the Jimmy Donahue (lifeguard) tribute, and during the evening we will have a featured band from this area and hopefully that band will be announced soon.

4. Future Grants – HBAC direct ability to apply in the future

Mr. Nyhan discussed confusion on the HBAC applying for federal grants. We got into the pre-application process by using a Dunn's number that belongs to the DOT in New Hampshire. A Dunn's number (Dunn Bradstreet number) gives authority to apply for any grants in the Federal Government. He consulted with Fred Welch and he feels it's to everyone's advantage to apply as an organization for a Dunn's number, and we have been approved. The HBAC has full authority to not have to piggy back with the State to apply for grants. The website out there is www.grants.gov. There are many applications on that website to review. It's a very good way to go after any federal grants.

Old Business

1. State Park Project Update (Housman)
 - a. DRED & Town MOA update

Mr. Housman said the Division of Parks is working on three agreements. The Town, the Village District and Chamber and MOUs were discussed and Mr. Housman feels we are close to getting them signed and back out soon. We started our season early last week. Beach and sidewalks were cleaned up by last Friday. A lot of trash was left behind. Police are helping out. He met with Deputy Sawyer and the Chief.

Mr. Sawyer said the State Park's performance was amazing. The response from Mike and his crew was amazing. He thanked DRED. So much help is seasonal at this point.

He also commented that he attended a Friday's meeting with Deputy Sawyer to discuss placing Crime line signs strategically around the beach. Every entryway will have a sign. They are ready to go per Mr. Sawyer.

Mr. Housman stated DRED is pleased that the Town voted for the sewer connection with North Hampton. It will be connected this summer. Some renovations have occurred. When the summer ends, the bathhouse will be torn down and new project will begin for the 2013 season.

Mr. Sawyer discussed security cameras. There have been enough incidences of mischief, if people know they are being monitored, issues should cut down. He stated they are working with the State to find something to suit the needs.

2. Commissioner project updates

Mr. Nyhan asked for updates from Commissioners on their projects they are working on.

Mr. Rage and Mr. Preston are working with the West side. Mr. Rage stated he is getting in touch with the new owner of Casino. There are not many people around now, but they will work with people soon.

Mr. McMahon has no updates.

Mr. Watson – no updates.

Mr. Nyhan provided data to the RPC when the parking study was being done on Hampton Beach. There is a report and recommendation for us now with aerial pictures. There is a meeting with Dave Walker and the RPC on Wednesday, the 11th at 12 noon in Hampton. Mr. Sawyer and Mr. McMahon should really try to go. Based on the outcome of that meeting, Mr. Walker from the RPC will be invited to attend next month's meeting to get ideas.

3. Other Old Business

New Business

1. Meeting invitation – DOT/Town along with other interested Parties.

Mr. Nyhan discussed that the Board of Selectmen is having a restructuring meeting coming up. Once that happens, he wants the Beach Commission to take the lead and recommends having a group discussion around the sidewalks. He would like Mr. Watson to attend, Mr. Welch and the Board of Selectmen. He also invited the HBVD to attend and bigger business owners on Ocean Blvd. His strategy is to resolve the sidewalk issue. We need to put our heads together to be productive. Getting different groups/organizations together to get sidewalks fixed. He wants the Beach Commission to host a meeting and bring people in who are important to this issue and brainstorm. HBAC is the constant committee talking about this and it needs to work with the community and State.

Mr. McMahon asked what the limits are that we are talking about. Is it Ashworth to Haverhill? He thinks the whole sidewalk along Ocean blvd up to Winnacunnet should be discussed. Mr. Watson said the State would be happy to come in and discuss this in more detail. He said the State needs to know what all the issues are. If white board is blank, we need to know striping, sidewalks, and crosswalks. Put all issues up there and go at them from there.

Mr. Rage stated there are a lot of holes in the sidewalk now that are unsafe. He asked where we go now for small patch jobs. Mr. Sawyer stated short term and long term goals should both be discussed. Deal with short term first – 30 to 90 day projects first and then go beyond that for long-term projects.

Mr. Preston said some of the holes the DPW have helped with to patch things so people do not get hurt. Mr. Nyhan asked for Mr. Welch's comments. Mr. Welch said the Board of Selectmen probably will approve it and work with DRED. Do a comprehensive analysis, put it on the table, and move forward. There is a partnership with the State and we need to resolve problems now and future problems. Many are federal issues.

2. Other New Business

Mr. Rage reminded everyone in Village District that voting is tomorrow. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Town will be discussed. We need votes, etc. Mr. Preston stated the HBVD will support \$10,000 for the Gala; hopefully in addition to the Chamber money. It should make for a good weekend.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR LAURIE (thanks so much)!!!

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Sawyer to adjourn

SECOND by Mr. Rage

VOTE: 8-0-0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary