

*Town of Hampton*



*Department of Resources and  
Economic Development*



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

**Monthly Meeting –April 25, 2013  
Selectmen’s Meeting Room  
7 PM**

**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  
Rick Griffin, Hampton Representative

**ABSENT:** Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District  
Walter Kivlan - Hampton Beach Village District  
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large  
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast  
Parks/Recreation)

**Other:** Laurie Olivier- Secretary  
James Steffen – Town Planner

**Introduction of Commissioners**

Mr. Nyhan introduced the members of the Commission. He noted the absences. Mr. Kivlan had a fall. Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Housman are absent due to vacation week for their children. Mr. Rage had a medical issue to attend to.

Mr. Nyhan stated that there are individuals this evening from the community. He recognized that State officials are attending; local Board of Selectmen members, HBVD members and Chamber of Commerce members.

## **Public Comment Session – related to agenda items**

Mr. C. Preston appeared. He applauded the HBAC in its mission, but requested input from the DOT, Hampton Fire, Hampton Police, Public Works and HBAC on transportation and parking issues.

The intersection of Brown Avenue and Ashworth Avenue was discussed. Time is of the essence. Demolition of the old fire station was discussed.

The access and egress of the DRED CPA lot was discussed. He wants DOT/DRED to take a look at this. The entrance is hard to maneuver and the lot is full of sand. It is difficult to plow and does not allow for more than one vehicle to access for emergency response. Signalization was discussed and traffic. He asked for everyone to work together to get these issues resolved.

Ms. Linda Gebhart appeared. Beautification was discussed. She then spoke about how Harbor Road being a dangerous intersection. Numerous accidents were discussed including one that just occurred last night. The DOT fixes the reflector and it is then run over. It was fixed last month, but someone has run over it again. Accidents are on the Ashworth side. She asked what can be done. She did hear back from DOT and was told that it is a town issue due to it being on town property.

Cars parking illegally alongside the island was discussed as well as cars speeding.

She discussed the B Block –the new store with the new sign. Across the opening it says “Second Amendment Gifts & Military Souvenirs”. This concerns her. In 2011, someone shot her husband in the back. The darts are still being sold at the stores. It's a blow dart. It's not worthy of Hampton Beach. She asked what else this store is going to be selling. In 2011, the Town passed a warrant article to limit this. Martial arts should be in a separate room with a door. That is not happening. There are glass cases on wheels. Drug pipes and switchblades are there.

Mr. Jim Clement appeared. He congratulated the Commission and hopes they keep up with the progress. He is concerned about a decision to overturn some of the work being proposed to be done. If work is overturned, it's going to deter any contractors from doing work at the Beach. It will affect taxes. If the Town stops construction, legal action will be costly to the Town.

Mr. Tom Gebhart appeared. The Ocean Wok roadway was discussed. Cars traveling in the left lane oftentimes decide to go straight instead of turning left. Putting a raised crosswalk in that area was discussed. He discussed curb cuts on the west side of the road (by the Ocean Wok) and it being dangerous. Having one traffic cut was discussed. A motorcycle fatality was discussed.

Mr. Brian Warburton appeared. He discussed his disappointment with the Town. He complimented Bill Watson for his good work.

He discussed the season as being now. He said the Beach looks horrible. He wants regular updates to the Town Manager, DRED and others. He discussed the RFP and Blue Ocean. He asked about the Commissioner meeting again on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nyhan said Mr. Housman has been excused and he will read a report later. Mr. Clement from the DOT is speaking this month and in May, Commissioner Rose may attend the meeting with the general public and give his thoughts about DRED.

Mr. Warburton is concerned how the Selectmen are ignoring issues. He discussed a DOT report that explained to the public where the jurisdiction lies. There are seven State agencies. Property boundaries, lines, etc. were discussed. He wants to know if the document can get to the Board of Selectmen.

The Joint Operations Plan was discussed between DRED and the Town. There should be a public hearing and services at Hampton Beach need to be addressed.

Mr. Parker Diamond appeared. He is concerned about the severe litter problem at the beach and on the sidewalks. Weekends leave our beaches a mess. He asked why plastic cannot be put in totes to be used on the strip—the green and blue totes with wheels. Trash cans are under sized and they overflow into the streets. They are easy to empty with the new trucks. Recycling was discussed.

He suggests putting a 55 gallon can every 50 feet on the beaches with signs asking tourists to cooperate with efforts to help keep the beach clean. Having a walking pair of litter pickers were discussed too. On the northern stretch (sea wall), he feels we need more signage asking people not to litter.

More involvement from State and Division and Parks was discussed. Ogunquit lifeguards ask beachgoers to pick up their butts and trash randomly. He commended the DPW on the no litter type messages.

Ms. Mary-Louise Woolsey, Selectman appeared. She discussed the Joint Operations Plan. She discussed the DPW mess from the beach rakings. Beach rakes should only be raking seaweed. The State should be participating in making sure that we enforce a carry in/carry out policy. The State is not forcing people to recycle. It will take enforcement. She does not want the Town and taxpayers being hit with the cost.

Mr. Nyhan thanked Commissioner Clement for attending. He proposed the Commission to address some of the issues over the next month – working with both local and State agencies. Some DOT issues were discussed.

He is supportive of Ms. Gebhart's concerns. It disturbs Mr. Nyhan and he noted that Mr. Rage would be upset also. The HBAC has tried to work with owners on that block. The Commission will address that issue per Mr. Nyhan.

Beach raking and littering was discussed by Mr. Nyhan. The Commission needs to figure out a strategy. He knows there is a strategy being discussed at DRED regarding whole rubbish raking, etc. He will talk to Mr. Housman about this as well. There is still time before the actual season begins to get a comprehensive strategy together.

Mr. Nyhan will take all issues and put them under Old Business for next month and he will report back on these issues. He does not promise solutions in 30 days, but the Commission is sensitive to the concerns.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the DRED reports and the Memorandum of Understanding. There is a meeting with the Town Manager to continue discussion of the MOU.

Mr. Nyhan discussed Mr. Rage being involved in Blue Ocean. Mr. Nyhan said the Commission wants an educational program to open down at the Beach. This is because the store

is not re-opening. The Blue Ocean approached the Commission a few years ago and the Commission is in support of that program. Chuck Rage (HBVD) took the initiative to go to voters of the HBVD about the importance of supporting an education program that will feed children and families at the beach and he got funding to support that project.

### **Review & approval of March HBAC Minutes**

#### **TO BE APPROVED AT THE MAY MEETING.**

#### **Appointments**

1. NH DOT Commissioner Christopher Clement – Discussion on state, regional and local transportation strategies

Mr. Nyhan said if anyone has questions for Mr. Clement to save the questions until the end.

Mr. Watson stated that Mr. Clement has educated people throughout the State of New Hampshire regarding various needs of the State. He will help the public understand what drives us. Mr. Nyhan thanked him for giving up a school vacation night.

Mr. Clement appeared. State infrastructure was discussed. He discussed the strategic approach of the DOT. Preserving infrastructure was discussed. Improving safety was discussed. Supporting the economy is the goal.

Map 21 – Federal funds were discussed. State Capital Program (funds from Washington) will be discussed.

The turnpike system was discussed. Highway and turnpike funds were discussed. We do have a turnpike system (toll revenue—10 toll booths). Those funds have to stay in the turnpike fund. Highway fund deficits cannot take money from turnpike fund.

The highway fund is made up of road toll (gas tax) and registration fees and court fines. Funding levels have dropped. Map 21 will expire in 2014.

The Tiger program was discussed. Tiger 5 is coming out. It will be for the Sara Long Bridge.

The Operating Budget was discussed via powerpoint. Snow, ice and winter maintenance was discussed.

Winter severity index was discussed. Foliage season brings in about \$1 Billion. Slides shown this evening are on the State's website for anyone in the public to access.

#### **PUBLIC**

Mr. Warburton discussed other avenues and merging with other State departments. Engaging the prison population was discussed and volunteer work. Free hours were discussed and funding programs. He offered his help.

Mr. Clement said they do work with the prisons.

Privatizing roads was asked about. Mr. Clement said there are discussions going on.

Mr. Preston thanked Mr. Clement and told him we appreciate having Bill Watson as part of our Commission. He lets this Commission know what we can and cannot do. Mr. Griffin is very happy with Mr. Watson as well.

Mr. McMahon said he agrees with everyone. He asked about the House Bill for the gas tax. The status of it is that it's with the Senate now. Hampton gets \$264,000 right now and will receive an additional \$800,000 (roughly) if the Bill passes (51% more).

Senator Stiles asked if the \$800,000 is over a ten-year period and it was stated “yes”.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the items to be put on the State's radar screen. The Commission supported the Town on getting Ocean Boulevard onto the 10-year Master Plan. He asked as the year progresses if the Town can get the recognition of Ocean Boulevard to be a priority in advocating for funds.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Route 101 Interchange and the idea of creating a transit center within the interchange to provide an avenue for a park and ride – between Portsmouth and Newburyport. This would also be for the people coming into the beach area. We will increase tourism by 20 percent within first five years.

Mr. Nyhan also discussed looking at the bridge crossing from Seabrook into Hampton. Something needs to take place. That area is dangerous. The bridge being only two lanes has issues.

Mr. Nyhan once again thanked the Commissioner for coming to tonight's meeting.

Next Appointment:

Jude David discussed the State Fair. It will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, at Hampton Beach State Park. It's the first annual State Fair and they hope to make this an annual event. She noted that fairs are successful for communities. They are partnering with Fiesta Shows. Carnival rides like the merry-go-round will be there. Fireworks will be on Saturday night. There will be a petting zoo. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children; children under the age of 5 will be free. Hampton students with an ID will be admitted for free. Ms. David said the Town needs more for children in the area. Wristband promotions will take place. The website, [NHStateparks.org](http://NHStateparks.org) will list the event. She has estimates for all services of Hampton Fire and Police and DPW. Vendors can contact Ms. David at the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Preston thinks it's a good way to start the season.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **1. Follow up Discussion: State Parks Public Meeting (4/13/13)**

Mr. Nyhan discussed meeting with members of DRED and State Parks. Mr. Nyhan collected 16 or 17 good comments and recommendations. Trash, better transportation, design of Haverhill Street ingress and egress; parking at the chamber, handicap parking, etc. were all discussed. Mike Housman has the list and he will discuss those open items at upcoming meetings.

#### **2. Meeting with the Governor and new DRED Commissioner**

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Governor and new DRED Commissioner, Mr. Rose. Chuck Rage went and Dean Merrill attended also. Operational components including tourism, forestry and economic development was addressed.

#### **3. NH Capital Budget Senate Hearing – Sea Wall Appropriation (4/26/13)**

Mr. Nyhan said that tomorrow at 9:45, he is going to Concord to testify on capital budgets appropriation for \$2.5 Million appropriation to finish the seawall. Parking meter funds were discussed.

Mr. Nyhan met with Phil Bryce. He put into the budget a new position, i.e. Regional Parks Supervisor. Mr. Warburton had that position, but it was done away with and he is trying to bring it back. There would be a regional park supervisor. There will be a job description and he asked for the HBAC's input. He is looking for support for this position. It has to go through the budgetary process as well. It would be funded as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

### **Treasurer's report (Housman)**

No changes from last month.

### **Old Business**

#### 1. Discussion – Transportation Grant – (Watson)

Mr. Watson is still working through the Governor and Council process.

#### 2. Discussion - DRED updates (Housman)

Mr. Nyhan read Mr. Housman's update. It will be attached to Minutes.

#### 3. Status: New Development – Green & Company – (339-345 Ocean Blvd.)

Mr. Nyhan discussed the second project being developed down the Beach—The Shirley Motel area. A letter went to Zoning and it was voted in favor of the project. The Board of Selectmen has asked for a rehearing on the project. Mr. Preston said he was disappointed to hear it was going to be put on hold. We want to change the skyline at the Beach.

#### 4. Status - Transportation Ten Year Plan (McMahon)

Mr. McMahon said the Planning Commission met on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Route 101 and 1 Interchange is currently under study. That study will proceed.

The bridge replacement over Hampton River needs a feasibility study to happen. It's on the list.

With regard to the reconstruction of Ocean Boulevard -the region received a total of 107 new projects, 56 that could be funded. This was ranked at #18. That list is with the DOT now.

Mr. Watson said they are in the process of receiving all recommendations. Most of May and June they will combine a list of priorities and put together a prioritized list. There will be a final list around Labor Day.

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

Mr. Nyhan discussed Blue Ocean, the children's educational program. DRED put out a request for proposal. It was issued on April 12<sup>th</sup>. April 29<sup>th</sup> is the due date. The start date is June 5<sup>th</sup> and it's for a three-year contract. Jen Kennedy will submit a proposal. She's identified a budget. She needs \$35,000 to get this operation going. She needs about \$5,000-\$6,000 to support the program financially. Chuck Rage recommended that the HBVD vote for up to \$5,000 of Precinct money to help support this. They are looking for letters of support. It should be attached to the RFP. They are looking for another site in case they do not get the State site.

Mr. Nyhan made a **MOTION** to officially support Blue Ocean Society in its proposal to bring in a program to Hampton Beach and support the effort to appropriate \$1,000 from beach funds. **SECOND** by Mr. Preston. He feels it would be an asset to the Beach. Mr. McMahon thinks it goes with what we would be looking for at the Beach.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0**

**MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Nyhan will put a letter together and let her know she can put that in for her request for proposal.

#### 6. Other old business

Mr. Griffin said it is important for the voters of Hampton to vote for \$12 Million for the infrastructure. More development would occur down there. He said the Fire Department approved buildings much higher. He thinks we should encourage this project.

Mr. Nyhan said the tax revenue on the property was \$3 Million. With the new design, once constructed and filled, it will bring \$14 Million in revenue.

#### **New Business**

1. Upcoming Meeting – May 1<sup>st</sup> – Regional Economic Development Center presentation regarding the economic impacts of a proposed intermodal transportation center in Hampton, NH

Mr. Nyhan said on May 1<sup>st</sup> he received an invite from Jen Kimball inviting the HBAC to its May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Presentation from UNH will take place regarding the intermodal transportation center. She asked if they would participate. It is at the Lane Memorial Library. It is at 10:30 a.m.

2. Proposed meeting – NH DRED Commissioner – Jeff Rose (5/30/13)

Mr. Nyhan is asking Jeff Rose to attend on May 30<sup>th</sup> (our next meeting). It will be for the public to attend as well.

Mr. Preston discussed the beach not looking good per some public comments this evening, but he believes it looks good first thing in the morning.

Adjourn

**MOTION** by Mr. Preston to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Mr. Griffin.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0**

**MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Laurie Olivier  
Secretary