

**Hampton Conservation Commission
Final Minutes
Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

I. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Jay Diener, Vice-Chair
Pete Tilton
Pat Swank
Diane Shaw

Staff Present:

Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

II. Review Minutes

1. August 23rd, 2022

Ms. Swank MOTIONED to approve the August 23rd minutes with edits provided. SECONDED by Mr. Diener. Vote: 2-0-2 Mr. Tilton and Ms. Shaw abstained.

1. August 30th, 2022

Mr. Diener MOTIONED to approve the August 30th minutes. SECONDED by Mr. Tilton. Vote: 2-0-2. Ms. Swank and Ms. Shaw abstained.

III. Application

There are no applications.

Mr. Diener suggested the Commission should discuss the possibility of setting a time-frame for after-the-fact permits, such as those still required after NHDES issues an Emergency Authorization to do work. Ms. O'Brien will look into it for a future meeting.

IV. New Business

a. Brief Update on SHEA's Estuary Management Plan

Mr. Diener gave an update.

- The Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA) is in the process of receiving grant funding from the New Hampshire State Estuary Moose Plate Grant and the Piscataqua Estuary Grant.
- Mr. Diener presented the Visioning Chapter of the Management Plan that SHEA is developing.

The Commission discussed how the estuary could eventually become more accessible to the public.

Ms. Swank asked if Seabrook and Hampton Falls are interested in adopting the Estuary Management Plan into their Master Plans. Mr. Diener stated that town officials have not made any formal commitments, but they are very receptive.

Mr. Diener presented the Goals and Objectives from the Estuary Management Plan.

- There are 5 goals related to the health of the estuary.
- SHEA is in the process of presenting these chapters to the Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards, and the Select Boards in Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls.
- The Estuary Management Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and then it will be presented for adoption to each town.
- SHEA will assist each town adopt the management plan and then it will be a working document.
- SHEA will help each town achieve each of the 5 goals by helping seek funding sources when needed.
- The intent is to update the Estuary Management Plan every 5-10 years.

Ms. O'Brien asked how long the document is anticipated to be. Mr. Diener said that it should be about 3 chapters.

Mr. Diener emphasized that this document is not intended to be completed and then put on a shelf. SHEA will use it as a road map for any work they do in the future.

Mr. Diener asked that Commission members take some time to go through the chapters and send him questions or concerns via email.

- b. Summary of Rachel Stevens of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) presentation about a process for prioritizing salt marsh parcels relative to their ecological value.

Mr. Diener provided a very brief summary of the GBNERR presentation:

- Previously, SHEA presented a list of parcels adjacent to the estuary they recommended as good targets for conservation to the Commission.
- The Great Bay National Estuary Reserve has come up with a program that would allow the commission to prioritize which parcel they would like to the owners of first.

Ms. Swank asked if extra professional opinions would be required. Mr. Diener stated that it would be up to the commission to make that choice.

The GBNERR-developed process will be explained in greater detail in a subsequent Commission meeting.

- c. Fall Edition of Conservation Talk

Ms. O'Brien presented her draft of the Fall Edition of the newsletter.

- She plans to publish the newsletter in the next week.
- Mr. Diener suggested that she include a 'leave no trace' themed action item.
- Ms. O'Brien asked that Commission members send her recommendations for media links related to coastal issues.
- Mr. Diener suggested adding SHEA's Salt Marsh walk on the 15th of October to the list of upcoming environmental events.
- Ms. O'Brien presented her draft of a land acknowledgment statement.

- Ms. O'Brien will send out a draft version to the commission for review.
- Mr. Tilton will send Ms. O'Brien a picture of Monarch Butterflies on Goldenrod.
- Any other thoughts can be sent to Ms. O'Brien.

V. Appointments

- a. Ayden Jacobs - Monitoring Intern Annual Presentation (Conservation parcels monitored over the Summer of 2022)
 - Acres Monitored: 164,452
 - Sites Visited: 29
 - Owned by the town: 16 Deeds
 - Number of Easements: 13
 - Issues Encountered
 1. Trash on high traffic roads
 - a. Winnacunnet Road
 - b. Lafayette Road
 2. Dumping on town sites
 - a. Noted forested areas on the edge of private properties.
 3. Access
 - a. Limited parking

Mr. Tilton asked the type of trash in the high traffic areas. Mr. Jacobs stated that along the roads it was mostly trash, but he found some dumping at the edge of the town forest.

Mr. Diener asked if there were any pinpointed locations for dumping. Mr. Jacobs noted one site that was worse than others at the edge of a private property.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he had trouble accessing the site off of Barbour Road. He feels the area would benefit from more parking.

Recommendations:

1. Kayak Launch points into Robie's Pond (at the end of Winnacunnet Road)
 - a. Well maintained habitats
 - b. No trash
2. Parking availability on Barbour Road
 - a. Greater access to the public
3. Remarking property boundaries
 - a. Ensure that people know where the property lines are and reduce the rate of dumping on town lands.

Questions and comments:

Mr. Tilton noted that the notes about Barbour Road reiterate a good point.

Ms. O'Brien supported the idea of more access to Robie's Pond.

VI. Old Business

- a. 2023 Proposed Warrant Articles
 - i. Mr. O'Brien shared a document with proposed changes to warrant articles.

The word "Permitted" was changed to "Allowable" throughout the document.

"Allowable Uses" was clarified.

2.3.3-A: It was recommended that shipping containers will be added to the list of impervious surfaces.

2.3.3-7: Ms. O'Brien will adjust the language to reflect that a landing pad for stairs will not be excluded from impact calculations.

2.3.3-8: Ms. O'Brien reviewed the proposed changes in section 2.3.3-8.

2.3.4: Ms. O'Brien reviewed the proposed changes in section 2.3.4

- Mr. Diener suggested adding the word "Wetland" C.2 so that it reads "Tidal wetlands and/or their 50 ft town **wetland** buffer."

Ms. O'Brien presented these proposed changes to the Planning Board and they had no issues with it. They were receptive and ready to move forward.

Pervious Hardscape Ordinance: Ms. O'Brien reviewed the proposed changes

- Ms. O'Brien noted that the Planning Board was not receptive to the proposed vegetated space minimums.
- Commission members encouraged Ms. O'Brien to re-present the idea of the vegetative space minimum coverage to the Planning Board and emphasize that it does not reduce the building envelope.
- The Commission discussed vegetative land and impervious coverage allowances.
- Ms. O'Brien will re-present to the Planning Board and use the phrase "Buildable Lot". She will point out that it is the same language that has been used in the ordinance that has already been adopted.

b. Town Forest Subcommittee

i. Mr. Diener presented an update on the Town Forest Subcommittee.

- Ms. Swank suggested using the kiosks on White's Lane to advertise the Subcommittee.
- Ms. O'Brien noted that she will advertise in the next edition of the newsletter. She will put together a list of responsibilities and goals and she will coordinate a meeting time in the next few months.
- Mr. Tilton suggested that it be made clear that the sub-committee is an advisory group.
- At the next meeting the Conservation Commission will discuss who has an interest and willingness to lead the sub-committee.

c. Hi-Vis Winter Hats with Conservation Commission Logo, estimated cost \$800/50 hats (\$16 per hat)

- Ms. O'Brien will inquire if the embroidery contractor has a non-profit rate.
- Ms. O'Brien will inquire if the embroidery contractor would offer a discount if the contractor's logo is put on the back of the hat.
- Ms. O'Brien will look into how selling the hats would be handled by the finance department.

Mr. Diener MOTIONED to approve up to \$800 for 50 embroidered, knit, high-vis beanies with the Conservation Commission logo on them to sell them for \$10 each

with approval from the town. SECONDED by Ms. Swank. Vote: Unanimous.

VI. Conservation Coordinator and Chair Update

- a. CHAT update
 - Ms. O'Brien will send out a document with more information on CHAT updates.
 - Mr. Diener noted that CHAT has discussed using a page in the Conservation Commission Newsletter for outreach.
 - Ms. O'Brien stated that the Coastal Resilience Coordinator position has been posted.

VII. Adjourn

Mr. Tilton MOTIONED to Adjourn. SECONDED by Ms. Shaw. Vote: Unanimous.