

CONSERVATION COMMISSION WORKING SESSION - FINAL
September 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair, Jay Diener, at the Hampton Town Office Meeting Room. Commission members present were Barbara Renaud, Peter Tilton, Sharon Raymond, Steve Scaturro, and Ellen Goethel. Alternates present were Diane Shaw and Gordon Vinther. Rayann Dionne, Conservation Coordinator, was also present.

A. Contractor Selection for the Phragmites cutting at Landing and Drakeside Roads.

Jay Diener gave a brief overview of the phragmites control project for both Landing and Drakeside Roads. This work is a continuation of the phragmites control program that is partially funded through a grant from the US Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Services with assistance from the Rockingham County Conservation District. A request for proposals was published on August 31, 2011 with a submission deadline of September 6, 2011. The commission members reviewed and discussed the only proposal received for Landing Rd and the only proposal for Drakeside Rd. Following the discussion, Peter Tilton motioned to accept the proposal for Drakeside Rd and the proposal for Landing Rd from New England Wetlands, Inc.. Ellen Goethel seconded this motion. All were in favor with the exception of Gordon Vinther who abstained.

B. Guidelines for deck construction in the 50ft buffer

Jay Diener shared the need re-evaluate the guidelines/recommendations currently used for the construction of decks in the 50ft buffer. Rayann Dionne presented a summary of various pier and dock guidelines established by the Army Corp of Engineers and other agencies to minimize the amount of shading on vegetation below. The commission had a lengthy discussion on deck height, width, board spacing, the need to research the types of shade tolerant vegetation that could be recommended, and the need to find more research/findings on the success of the light penetrating decking. The commission was unanimous in its need to better understand how light penetrating decking works in the Northeast. Peter motioned to set a minimum deck height of 6ft, to recommend standard deck plank spacing of ¾" and to have Rayann Dionne research shade tolerant and absorbent plants for recommendation to applicants. Ellen Goethel seconded the motion and all were in favor. We discussed the importance of mitigation offered when considering any variations from these guidelines. Ellen recommended that a letter summarizing these deck guidelines be sent to the Hampton Planning Board. Gordon Vinther recommended developing a list of concepts that the Commission should research, keep in mind during future discussions on decks, and perhaps incorporated into these guidelines, if appropriate. The following items were recommend: 1) percent of open space on the decking, 2) height of deck versus the length/width of deck – perhaps a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio, 3) north/south orientation of the decking material, 4) the directional orientation of the deck (north/east/south/ west side of the building) and 5) if using light penetrating decking does the vegetation need to be established prior to installation or can it grown after the deck is constructed.

Steve Scaturro motioned to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Renaud, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.