

Hampton Conservation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Present: Jay Diener, Chairman
Peter Tilton, Jr., Vice Chairman
Gordon Vinther
Diane Shaw
Pat Swank, Alternate

Also Present: Rayann Dionne – Conservation Coordinator
Ann Carnaby - Planning Board

I. Non-Meeting with Town Attorney: 6:30 pm

II. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Diener at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Selectmen’s Meeting Room.

III. Officer Elections

ELECTION: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Financial Administrator

MOTION: Mr. Diener nominated Barbara Renaud as Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

SECONDED: Mr. Tilton

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Mr. Tilton nominated Jay Diener as Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

SECONDED: Ms. Swank

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Mr. Diener nominated Diane Shaw as Financial Administrator of the Conservation Commission.

SECONDED: Mr. Tilton

FAVOR: 3 in favor, 2 abstained (Mr. Diener, Ms. Shaw)

MOTION PASSED

IV. Review Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Tilton to approve the February 23, 2016 minutes with edits provided.

SECONDED: Ms. Shaw

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

V. Appointments

1. Pamela Hunt, NH Audubon - Installation of Purple Martin nesting boxes on an Island Path Town-owned parcel (Map 281, Lot 1)

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Pamela Hunt of the New Hampshire Audubon Society appeared before the Commission. Ms. Hunt spoke about the population of the Purple Martins and their decline in New Hampshire over the last 30 years. Ms. Hunt conveyed that there are currently three colonies known to exist in the state of New Hampshire. She shared the Purple Martin is a large swallow that nests exclusively in man-made housing. One of these man-made houses is installed in Seabrook, across from Beach Road. Man-made housing has increased the Purple Martin Colony from a single pair to 13 pairs last year. Ms. Hunt expressed this man-made house has reached near capacity, and they are currently looking to expand on the seacoast, preferably relatively close to the Seabrook site to hopefully produce a second colony.

Ms. Hunt proposed to add a man-made housing unit on a small parcel of Town owned land off Island Path, Map 281, Lot 1. She feels this site would be ideal as it is largely non-vegetated and that will keep predators away. The structure would be comprised of a 12' aluminum pole topped with supports for up to 12 plastic gourds. This would entail digging a hole 12-18" in diameter and 30" deep for a concrete footing. If approved, the structure would be installed in the spring, and then removed in the fall after the young Martins have left their nest. Ms. Hunt explained once the structure is installed, it will be monitored regularly by volunteers to determine if the Purple Martins have been attracted and begun nesting. Also the volunteers will monitor for House Sparrows which can take over the martin nest and sometimes even kill their young. Ms. Hunt concluded that the goal is to create a 2nd Purple Martin Colony in the seacoast area.

The Commission:

Mr. Tilton inquired where the Purple Martins nested prior to these man made houses. Ms. Hunt responded that it has been a cultural evolution. It is believed they would nest in gourds that the Native Americans would put up. She went on to say that the decline in the population is believed to be due to the decline in housing, among other factors such as pesticides.

Ms. Carnaby inquired whether the Martins consume mosquitos. Ms. Hunt responded they do to some degree, however they consume more green heads and other prey as they forage high up, not low where mosquitos reside.

Ms. Swank questioned where the volunteers come from. Ms. Hunt replied they just recruited three new volunteers when a presentation of their program was made at the Seacoast Science Center. She went on to say there is someone from Nashua, two volunteers from Rye, one from Hampton and several from Kingston. The group organizes and sets up the man-made housing in April. Once the Martins return they continue to monitor the sites once a week. They are checking and counting for eggs, and baby birds. They also check for parasites and will clean out some of the nesting material as needed.

Mr. Diener inquired if tourists are an issue, and Ms. Hunt explained the Martins are quite tolerant of people.

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Mrs. Dionne recommended sending a notification to the immediate abutters so they are aware of the installation. Ms. Hunt requested the Commission to provide her with a list of abutters and she will notify via mail.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Tilton recommended that the Commission request the Board of Selectmen to approve the installation of the man-made Purple Martin housing.

SECONDED: Ms. Swank

FAVORED: 4 in favor, 1 abstain (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Dionne suggested Ms. Hunt have an appointment scheduled for the Board of Selectmen meeting at the beginning of April. Once they are scheduled, the Conservation Commission will supply a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen.

VI. Applications

1. 59 Campton St.

Town Wetlands Permit

Owner: Robert and Karen Gallahue

Construction of new revetment stairs constructed of a combination of pressure treated wood and aluminum and also the installation of eastern and western boundary fences.

Mr. Bob Gallahue came before the Commission to request approval for a Town Wetlands Permit to install a seawall staircase leading from top the top of the rip rap wall to the beach, as well as a fence on both the east and west sides of the property. He stated the seawall stairs are going to be made of pressure treated wood, and there will be three steps leading up to a platform. The platform will be 4 ft. by 12 ft. long across the rocks. The staircase will proceed to go down nine steps before reaching another platform on the lower rocks. This platform will measure 5 ft. by 4 ft. From the bottom platform there will be eight aluminum removable stairs that would extend to the sand. He clarified his choice of the removable aluminum stairs is so they can be detached during rough weather or if the sands shift. The total square footage covered will be 134 square feet. He also said the first three steps and landing will be anchored by 3' deep 12" concrete filled sonotubes. The remainder of the staircase will have posts that will rest on the rocks.

Mr. Gallahue moved on to describe the second part of the project. He would like to install a fence along the east and west sides of the property, excluding the ocean front. He stated the fence would begin from the 50' mark where the front porch ends and extend back 18' on the east side, and 17-18' on the west side. He confirmed the fence would be 6' high, and 6" above the ground and angle down in the front.

The Commission:

Ms. Swank stated she was at the site visit and feels the addition of the staircase may help prevent the sand mound from eroding.

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Mr. Diener questioned if the fence on the east side would extend along to the end of the retaining wall. Mr. Gallahue confirmed it would, as the retaining wall ends approximately 8-10' from the front porch. Mr. Diener asked if the fence posts would be installed using cement footings. Mr. Gallahue indicated they would not, they would dig 3 feet down in the sand and install a pole in it. He also confirmed that 18 posts would be used and would take up 25 sq. ft.

Mrs. Dionne inquired what distance from the front of the house (street side, not ocean side) would the fence slope. Mr. Gallahue responded approximately the last 8' or so would be sloped. Mrs. Dionne suggested he confirm this with his deed, as well as the building department, to be certain there are no height restrictions with regards to the fence.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Tilton moved to recommend a letter be sent to the Planning Board allowing the Wetlands Permit for 59 Campton St. staircase and fence installations with the fence bottom 6" above the ground level.

SECONDED: Mr. Vinther

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

**2. 102 Kings Highway
Town Wetlands Permit**

Owner: John Rabias and Diane Simone

Applicant: Dan Ethier

Remove the existing dwelling, patio, and shed. Construct a new single family home with an underneath garage, front farmer's porch and rear deck. The redevelopment will result in a reduction of 301 sq. ft. of impervious surface in the Wetland Conservation District.

Christian Smith, Engineer with Beals Associates, appeared before the Commission on behalf of Mr. Ethier and Mr. Rabias. Mr. Smith explained to the Commission that Mr. Ethier has a Purchase & Sales Agreement for 102 Kings Highway. He presented a proposal of removing the existing structure, patio and shed, and replacing it with a new 3-story dwelling with a farmer's porch, deck and a garage under. Mr. Smith stated the plans for the new structure will have drip edges along both sides of building. He also noted that below the deck area will be a wash stone infiltration area. He informed the Commission that the Building inspector recommended concrete pads for a generator and one for HVAC. In addition there will be additional plantings along the wetland border and the remainder of the property will possibly have semi shade grass. Mr. Smith concluded that the entire proposed project reduces the overall impervious are in the Wetlands Conservation District by 301 sq. ft., and the setbacks from the wetlands will be increased.

The Commission:

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Mr. Tilton expressed concern for the distance of the Concrete pads for the generator and the HVAC. Mr. Smith confirmed that the Building Inspector has covered this concern.

Mr. Diener expressed appreciation that although the plan is for a larger dwelling, it will be pulled back, thus having less impact to the buffer. He also expressed appreciation for the removal of the shed.

Mrs. Dionne questioned if there will possibly be a fence as depicted on the plans. Mr. Smith said that has not yet been determined, but is on the plans as a future option. He also stated it may be a split rail. Mrs. Dionne responded if it is split rail there will be no need for 6" off the ground.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Vinther moved to recommend approval for 102 Kings Highway with the standard stipulations.

SECONDED: Mr. Tilton

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

3. NHDOT – Route 1

NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill

Pavement rehabilitation, guardrail replacement, slope stabilization and minor drainage repair on Route 1 in the Towns of Seabrook, Hampton Falls, and Hampton. Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Fund payment for tidal impacts in Hampton of \$20,545.07.

Mr. Diener stated that the Department of Transportation (DOT) was not in attendance and requested that Mrs. Dionne discuss their application.

Mrs. Dionne read the proposed description from the DOT Application. The proposal's overall description is to resurface a portion of US Route 1 including Seabrook, Hampton Falls and Hampton. The project will begin at US Route 1 in Seabrook just north of Gove Road and proceeds north and ends just north of the NH 101/US Route 1 interchange on Route 1 at Park Avenue in Hampton. The proposal for Route 1 in Hampton involves removal of 1.5" of pavement followed by replacement of 1.5" of new pavement with no increase to the road surface elevation. The resurfacing will not extend beyond the existing edge-of-pavement.

In addition to the new pavement, existing guardrails and associated end units along US 1 will be replaced. An eroding embankment slope repair will be conducted under and behind the guardrail. Cable rail will be replaced along NH 101/US 1 interchange. Headwalls at an existing 60" reinforced concrete pipe under NH 101 just east of the interchange will be repaired and replaced. A couple of minor drainage issues will be addressed in the interchange area. Mrs. Dionne went on to read the slope stabilization at Drakes River is necessary to install upgraded guardrail and prevent further erosion of the roadway embankment to maintain a stable and safe condition for the traveling public.

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The temporary wetlands impacts are 13,910 sq. ft. and permanent impacts totaling 2,128 sq. ft. in Hampton. Mrs. Dionne also reported the DOT will be making a payment of \$20,545.07 to the ARM Fund for tidal impacts in Hampton. During the slope stabilization, the DOT will be impacting prime wetlands.

Mrs. Dionne concluded by stating The DOT has provided 28 pages of plans and lengthy overview.

Mr. Tilton remarked from this point forward, the Commission should perhaps consider keeping track of donations made to the ARM Fund for projects taking place in Hampton. Mrs. Dionne agreed, confirming this would be helpful when requesting compensatory mitigation for Hampton from the ARM Fund.

Mr. Diener raised the question why they are armoring a bank that had previously been a vegetated bank and why the DOT has chosen not to revegetate. Mr. Diener advised the Commission has the option of a sending a letter to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) stating that this plan is acceptable, or that it is not, or that the Commission has further questions.

Ms. Swank voiced concern if this work will affect the quality of water or wildlife at the US 101, Route 1 interchange.

Mr. Vinther inquired if any heavy equipment would be in the buffer. Mr. Diener suggested that be placed in the letter of stipulations.

MOTION: Mr. Tilton moved that The Commission not oppose the Dredge and Fill Application by the DOT

SECONDED: Ms. Shaw

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

1. 50 year Conservation Easement deed restriction of Map 67 Lot 1 (298 Exeter Rd) (**Taken Out of Order**)

Mr. Diener reviewed that the Commission has gone through the wetland permitting process for an application for the property at 298 Exeter Rd. He stated we have reached an agreement for the wetlands and buffer impacts and made recommendation to the Planning Board. Subsequent to that, in the applicants' title research, they found that in 1972 when the heirs of Harry Chase sold the property to Wheelabrator, they included a deed restriction that there be a 50 year Conservation Easement on part of that parcel, and that Easement has six years remaining. Mr. Diener went on to state the big question is what happened to the Easement once it was processed. Mrs. Dionne said she reviewed notes from the Board of Selectmen meeting on July 7, 1972 where a motion was made and seconded to accept and record the Conservation Easement. The Town Attorney, Mark Gearreald, researched and found the Easement was recorded in the Town of Hampton Book of Deeds. Mr. Diener

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confirmed that there is no record of this Easement being recorded at the Registry of Deeds. After discussing this with the Town Attorney, it appears that having it recorded in the Town Book Deeds, and being accepted by the Conservation Commission in 1972, qualifies that this is a legal Easement. Mr. Diener went on to say that if it is a legal Easement, the RSAs allow us to have the ability to acquire and accept properties in the Easement, but there is nothing in the RSA that says the Conservation Commission may grant that Easement or release it to another entity. Mr. Diener resolved there is nothing in state law that gives us the ability to do anything other than accept that Easement and abide by the rules of that Easement. Mr. Tilton commented it is unfortunate, because he feels they worked out a plan with the applicant that was workable. However, he went on to state that without state law, he is not comfortable proceeding. Mr. Diener would like the Town Attorney to further research this to determine the status of the Easement; to establish if it is a legally binding Easement. If it is legally binding, Mr. Diener does not see any options. If it isn't, then we can talk about options. He concluded that until we can find out the status of the Easement, we shouldn't talk about any other options. Ms. Carnaby stated it is regrettable that the Commission and the applicants have come this far, and given assurance and an agreement with this project. Mr. Diener expressed they reached an agreement of what was fair and reasonable, however that is not the issue. The issue is what do with regards to the Easement. He went on to state it is not typical that the Commission opens the discussion with the applicants, however they would like to hear the applicants thoughts. Mr. Paquette, Mr. Saari and Mr. Colwell appeared before the Commission and requested a copy of the Easement that was recorded in the Town Book of Deeds. Mrs. Dionne provided them with a copy of the Easement that was signed by all parties, as well as a copy of the Minutes from the Meeting in 1972. Mr. Colwell stated that since it was not recorded at the registry, he is unsure of the law in this matter. He also noted that since the date of the Easement there has been a building constructed, as well as a tennis court and skating rink. He questions if there are ramifications where it has already been built on. The Applicants requested if it would be possible to convene again prior to the next Conservation Commission Meeting if the Town Attorney has come to a resolution of this issue. Mr. Diener responded if a determination is made that it is a legally binding Easement, based on what we know about the RSA, that's the answer. He also stated if it is not a legally binding Easement, the Town Attorney will outline for us what the various options are and we can have a discussion about that. It was concluded that the Town Counsel and the applicants' counsel will review the situation to determine if there is any remedy.

VIII. Old Business

1. Land between Route 101 and North Hampton – Mr. Diener provided an update that he sent a reminder letter to a land owner who expressed interest in donating a parcel back in October. Mr. Diener also stated the Fitzgerald family is interested in donating a parcel in this area as well as a parcel along Whites Lane. Mrs. Dionne confirmed they are still working with the Fitzgerald's, and if they also donate the portion of a parcel in North Hampton to Hampton, that Hampton would not be required to pay taxes. Mr. Diener informed the Commission that Ms. Shaw has been communicating with someone who may be interested in donating a parcel called 12 shares as well. He thanked her for the work and efforts she has put forth. Ms. Dionne concluded there has been a deed drafted for a parcel being donated on Landing Road, and they are waiting to review that.

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2. Ice Pond Dam Update/Next Steps – Mr. Diener stated that Mrs. Dionne inquired with The Department of Public Works (DPW) when they would be installing the beaver pipe. The DPW was unaware of this plan, but are confident they are capable of installing this and will schedule it. If they do not have pipe available, they will forward along the cost for the pipe to the Conservation Commission.
3. Dune restoration at Plaice Cove – Ms. Swank reported she submitted a letter, along with a PowerPoint presentation and Alyson Eberhardt's report to Kristina Ostman, The Town Manager's Executive Assistant. Ms. Swank received an email response stating that she needs approval from Diana Martin of the Hampton Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Swank is waiting to hear back from Diana Martin. Once she receives approval, she can appear before the Board of Selectmen and is hoping to begin this project in May.
4. Mitigation Ratio Guidance – Mrs. Dionne presented the latest copy of the mitigation chart she comprised. She made a minor addition to on-site criteria. *"Mitigation should occur in the same watershed or one that has similar stresses."* Mrs. Dionne expressed that this is only for guideline purposes and she wants to be certain The Commission is comfortable with it. She also stated that the guidelines can be updated or adjusted. Mr. Diener added these guidelines have been used once thus far, and the guidelines add a great value to determine what would be considered acceptable mitigation. He confirmed the guidelines would not be part of The Conservation Commission Ordinances and that it is only to be used as a guideline. He suggested the Commission adopt this as a guideline for use in any future case with mitigation. Ms. Carnaby suggested if these guidelines are adopted, they should be shared with Jason Bachand and the Planning Board. Another suggestion was to date it as it will be modified and updated. Mrs. Dionne confirmed it will be dated if adopted, and any future revisions will be dated as well.

MOTION: Mr. Tilton moved to adopt the Mitigation Ratio Guidelines.

SECONDED: Ms. Shaw

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

5. Town Property Management Agreement – revisit – Mrs. Dionne spoke of the proposed Board of Selectmen agreement with the Conservation Commission to manage undeveloped Town owned land. The intent of the agreement is to give the Commission oversight on lands that are not directly owned by the Commission. She stated there was some confusion with the list of properties. Back in 2009 Chris Keene put together a database of all Conservation Commission lands and easements. Mrs. Dionne went on to say the Board of Selectmen had a list with about 20 more properties that were not on her list. The list now is a mixed combination of Town owned land, Conservation owned land and Conservation easements. Mrs. Dionne indicated the list will need to be edited and cleaned up. She also stated if the Town is going to authorize another entity to manage town owned properties, they would have to put forward a warrant article requesting the Conservation Commission be given the authority to monitor these parcels. The warrant article would need to be voted and passed by the town. Mr. Diener questioned the potential impact on the Conservation Commission Budget. He confirmed this year the Commission has a grant to bring in an intern to monitor properties that are under the Conservation Commission. He went on to remark if the Commission takes on this project to monitor more properties, then the Commission would want an intern every summer moving forward. The Commission discussed if they should

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add a line item that is for monitoring the lands in the 2017 budget. Mr. Diener confirmed the grant for this summer is \$2100-\$2400, and this is a good number to build off for next year. Mrs. Dionne suggested they may want to look to RCCD and see if a relationship could be established and what their rate would be. The Commission also discussed that UNH Cooperative Extension does some free field work/monitoring that they may be able to connect with. Mrs. Dionne suggested the Commission put the word out to find students who may be interested in this position for this summer. Ms. Shaw inquired if there is a place on the town's website to advertise the position. Ms. Swank inquired about the salary for the position, and Mrs. Dionne responded it would pay \$11-\$12 an hour for about 20 hours a week.

6. 2016 Rain Barrel and Rain Garden programs – Mrs. Dionne informed the Commission the date for the Rain Garden workshop is scheduled for April 11th from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Tide Mill Rd.
7. Soil Testing Program –outline/timeline review – Mrs. Dionne shared she reached out to the UNH Cooperative Extension to apprise them the date for the Rain Garden Workshop is April 11th, and requested they come and speak for 10 minutes or so on how to collect soil samples. Mrs. Dionne specified the idea behind the soil test is to educate homeowners about the dangers of over fertilization. One of the ideas is to have an incentive for homeowners to drop off a soil sample at a station during the Rain Barrel Auction and Plant Sale. The cost of soil testing is \$17. The Commission discussed if they wanted to advertise a discount for everyone participating in this program, or perhaps offer a certain amount of testing free of charge. Mr. Diener feels it is good to offer an incentive to people to jump start this program. Mr. Tilton inquired whether it would only take place during the plant sale. Mr. Diener confirmed it would, and the hope is to have a representative from UNH available for drop-offs that day. Ms. Swank inquired how advertising for this would take place. Ms. Carnaby suggested advertising to the Art Network and the Garden Club, as they have an alliance in the spring. She stated it could be another avenue for spreading the word. Ms. Swank suggested putting together an advertisement depicting the effects of over fertilizing and explain that it puts out too much nitrogen in the waters and the dangers of that. Ms. Dionne stated she will draft a flyer and forward it to the Commission for approval, edits and/or suggestions.

MOTION: Ms. Swank moved to set funds aside not to exceed \$200 for the prospective soil test program.

SECONDED: Ms. Shaw

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

1. Golden Corridor – extinguish an old Right of Way – Mr. Tilton expressed concern for the Town of Hampton and Hampton Conservation Commission's granted access to an observation platform and bench, as well as two parking spaces for the public. Mrs. Dionne stated the Golden Corridor file is large and time is needed to review it. She stated it is their last opportunity to enforce the two parking spots and ensure that we always have access to the observation platform. Mr. Diener noted RSA 41-14(a), and whatever was negotiated at the time of the Right of Way needs to remain in place.

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2. 2017 Warrant Articles – brain storming – Mr. Diener informed the Commission that all their warrant articles for 2016 passed and with good margins. He offered his congratulations. He summarized this year the process of meeting with the Zoning Board to discuss and amend warrant articles proved to be a successful relationship. Mr. Diener recommended the Commission begin thinking about issues that are not being addressed by the Conservation Commission Ordinances for 2017. Mrs. Dionne suggested she would revisit the list of prospective warrant articles comprised last year and remove the items that have been completed to form a list for the Commission to evaluate for next year.
 3. 2017 Budget – Mr. Diener conveyed it is not too early to begin thinking about the budget for 2017. He suggested the Commission add a line item to the budget for the monitoring of Conservation properties. He feels this is something we should be doing, however it will cost money as we don't have the man power for it. Mr. Diener also suggested they include an annual raise for the Conservation Coordinator in the 2017 Budget. Mrs. Dionne will forward the 2016 budget to the Commission to review and provide any suggestions, edits, etc. for the new 2017 budget.
- X. Conservation Coordinator and Chair Update** – Mrs. Dionne reported she will be sending a letter to the Board of Selectmen to reappoint Mr. Tilton, Jr., Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Swank to the Commission, and to appoint Ms. Swank a permanent member of the Conservation Commission and no longer an alternate.

Mrs. Dionne brought up the property of 1030 Ocean Boulevard which had previously been approved for a Town Wetlands Permit. She stated the homeowners discovered they do not need to modify the north side of the seawall as originally thought, however they have found they need to improve 200 sq. ft. more than initially planned on the south side of the wall. Mrs. Dionne noted the owners have submitted new plans reflecting this change and inquired whether the homeowners should file a special amended permit. The Commission discussed this and agreed this is considered minor field modification and they are not extending the footprint or altering the stairs, so there is no amended permit required.

Mrs. Dionne discussed the ARM Fund Priority List Project. She informed the Commission she has received a quote from Tracy Degnan of the Rockingham County Conservation District to comprise a list of properties that would be considered suitable as mitigation for future projects that may take place in Hampton. The quote is for \$850 which includes 12 hours of work to comprise the list as well as mileage. Mrs. Dionne stated Ms. Degnan would be building off a list the Commission currently has. Should any future projects seem worthy of mitigation, there is an ARM Fund pre-proposal requirement that is due by the end of April. If the Commission would like Ms. Degnan to prepare the proposal as well, that would be at a cost of an additional \$500. Mrs. Dionne also expressed to Ms. Degnan the Commission may be interested in doing a vernal pool assessment on town-owned land. Ms. Degnan provided a quote of approximately 10 hours with a wetland scientists at a rate of \$95 per hour for a total of \$950. Mr. Tilton suggested the Commission comprise a list with about half a dozen properties they think may have vernal pools and that would possibly cut the work down quite a bit. The Commission discussed that in the future if there is a project that would require money contributed to the ARM Fund, it would be extremely helpful to have this list completed. There was also a discussion about possibly using funds for this list

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from the Special Services Line Item. Mr. Diener noted that this is not a cost that would have to be incurred every year.

MOTION: Mr. Tilton made the motion to allocate funds for the project and contract with Tracy Degnan of RCCD for the Mitigation Priority List for the ARM Fund.

SECONDED: Ms. Swank

FAVOR: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

The Commission discussed the Hurd Farm Easement and confirmed the Easement is monitored by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD). There is some concern that there has been ATV usage in the area that is damaging some of the grounds. If the homeowner agrees, the Commission is not opposed to installing a sign there stating what is allowed and not allowed on the Easement, as well as noting motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Mr. Diener gave a brief update that he was invited to speak at a public hearing in New Castle last evening. The hearing was to propose the idea to adopt a wetland as a prime wetland in New Castle. He commented there were 20—30 residents in attendance. Only two residents were in favor of the prime wetlands. He expressed how fortunate the Conservation Commission in Hampton is to have a supportive group of residents who understand the value of what the Commission has done and continues to work hard to take steps to protect the wetlands.

XI. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Tilton made the motion to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

SECONDED: Ms. Shaw

FAVORED: 4 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Diener)

MOTION PASSED

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on April 19, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Hildreth