

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Police Station – 2nd Floor Training Room
7 PM**

October 28, 2010

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Brian Warburton, Vice Chairman, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Bill Watson, Secretary/Treasurer- NH Department of Transportation
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan- Hampton Beach Village District
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large

Other:

Jamie Steffen- Hampton Town Planner (Administration)
Laurie Olivier- Secretary

Absent:

Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon, Rockingham Planning Commission
Lenny Paul, Hampton Beach Village District

1. Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan noted that Mr. Griffin and Mr. McMahon were on vacation and Mr. Paul has resigned. He will discuss the resignation later in the meeting.

2. Review & approval of 09/23/10 Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Sawyer to approve the September 23, 2010 Minutes.

SECOND by Ms. Guzman-Scanlan.

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointments

A. Catherine Silver – Request for support – a small science and nature center at Hampton Beach

Ms. Silver introduced herself and shared that she is a long-time resident of Hampton Beach and works at Winnacunnet High School as a science teacher. Several trips to the beach this summer brought her thoughts about having Hampton develop a small science and nature center. She decided Hampton Beach could use a small science and nature Center. Blue Ocean Society has a touch tank nature center in Salisbury and she checked it out and was impressed. The room is about the size of a two-car garage. Her thoughts were to find a location at the beach for this small center. Although she and others are continuing to look for a suitable location she would like the Commission's help in looking for space.

She stated that the Blue Ocean Society has a center in Portsmouth as well. She handed out information to the Commission members and asked if Jennifer Kennedy from Blue Ocean could speak for a few minutes.

Ms. Kennedy stated that most work focuses on New Hampshire State Parks educating people with research, etc. Blue Ocean sponsors touch tanks and weekly clean-ups at local beaches and compiles sea life data for research purposes.

Mr. Nyhan asked about support. He asked if the support is for space or staffing. Ms. Kennedy stated they are a non-profit so they will apply for grants and they have their own insurance. They would be able to staff the local program but cannot move forward until a place is chosen for the facility.

COMMISSION Comments:

Mr. Preston stated it's a wonderful idea. It will educate the children. He said it is nice for tourists as well.

Mr. Watson thinks it is a great project and it's a great effort.

Mr. Warburton stated that he believes Blue Ocean is an integral part of his business. He stated that the beach clean-up program is awesome as well. He commented on Ms. Silver's teachings as very impressive. He is 100 percent behind the project.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan is 100 percent behind it as well. Taking care of our Coast is something the Town really needs. She feels that affording tourists to have other options of things to do after a beach day is a great idea.

Mr. Sawyer thinks it's a very positive addition to the beach.

Mr. Nyhan discussed Ms. Kennedy's referencing the DRED contact. DRED said as far as the center/front of the beach, there is no room there. Mr. Nyhan requested correspondence from Ms. Kennedy. Mr. Nyhan said there "could be" some space in the complex. He stated the Commission could go back to DRED and inquire on Blue Ocean's behalf.

Mr. Nyhan asked about assistance exploring other options at the beach. He would like a representative from the Commission to work with Ms. Kennedy on this project.

B. Joint discussion with NH DOT (Tom Jameson & Mike Dugas) regarding Ocean Blvd and funding source requirements

Mr. Watson introduced Mike Dugas and Thomas Jameson. The discussion was centered around what would it take for a local community to seek assistance for the State (DOT) to evaluate and assess the need to “do over” Ocean Blvd including a new road, new side walks and drainage system. They recommended a program that would focus on establishing a need via group discussions and hearings before they determine what is really needed.

Mr. Nyhan added that some members of the Commission got together this past summer for an initial meeting at which point it was discussed that before the Commission jumped into a State road project that they really needed to understand the value of the project and to make sure the local community was supportive of the project.

Both Mr. Dugas and Mr. Jameson strongly suggested that the following steps be considered:

(1) To involve the right people to be selected as a advisory committee that would seek out the opinion of business and home owners on whether or not they feel that it was important to “redo” Ocean Blvd He stated no more than a dozen or so people are needed for this group.

(2) The second step is reaching a consensus of problems to be solved. Reaching agreements and living with the solutions made by the group was discussed. Drainage issues and safe sidewalks as examples of problems to be solved.

(3) The third step is engineering. The DOT participates because of technical expertise and has the ability to determine exactly what would be needed to provide the necessary improvements on Ocean Blvd.

Mr. Nyhan asked about the typical timeline. Mr. Jameson discussed that it is the desire of the advisory group and how long it takes to reach a consensus, etc. Most optimistically, smaller projects can go through the first steps in two or three weeks; larger projects may take a dozen or so weeks. Four to five meetings should be enough to get local consensus.

COMMISSION Comments:

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan discussed funding and wanted to know more about that. Mr. Watson discussed three to four programs and suggested that we look at a variety of funding opportunities.

Mr. Nyhan is in full support of anything that will improve Hampton Beach and is consistent with the Master Plan. He would like more time for this discussion to take place.

MOTION by Mr. Preston that the HBAC be the catalyst to create this stakeholders group and try to get the community involved and let stakeholders group take it from there.

SECOND BY Mr. Warburton.

VOTED: 5 – 0 – 0 MOTION PASSED

C. Update from Chief Chris Silver on the Beach Fire Station proposal

Chief Silver presented an overview and history of the plans to build a new fire station at Hampton Beach along with remodeling the current fire station uptown.

Five beach sites were reviewed. The least-impact location would be behind its present location – the north side behind Brown Avenue. Chief Silver stated the existing site is undersized. An addition fitting at the proposed location and problems at both locations were discussed.

Chief Silver talked about square footage, space and emergency vehicle access along with apparatus bays. He identified that less than 24 inches being between vehicles is a problem along with lack of storage. No protective clothing storage is located at the fire stations. There are also no windows in the room. Decontamination areas and having outside access is a problem. Equipment maintenance area, electrical and mechanical areas as well as lack of storage for records are all needed.

The new proposal was discussed at both locations. This was started in 2009 with a warrant article. Chief Silver was authorized to spend up to \$50,000. To date \$35,000 has been spent. Surveys have been done, soil condition testing completed and services of additional engineering firms for all areas has been completed.

Proposals have been sent to Board of Selectmen and to Precinct Commissioners. He stated he would like to have both proposals be a single warrant article for both stations. He would like construction being able to commence as soon as possible due to cost increases.

Mr. Nyhan asked what the next step is. Chief Silver said we have adequate information to put forth in the warrant article. Educating the public on the present and proposed facilities was very important in order for any future warrant to be approved by the town residents.

Mr. Sawyer saw the presentation and stated that it is an outstanding job that needs to move forward.

Mr. Nyhan reiterated having the need of one warrant article and that fire safety was important to the entire community both at the beach and uptown, He thanked Mr. Silver on the presentation.

Mr. Silver asked any residents who have questions to please contact him.

5. Old Business

1. Beach Redevelopment Project updates (Warburton)

Mr. Warburton discussed that Haverhill Avenue area and Ashworth area bathrooms should be done in November. He stated the inside of the bathrooms are very nice. He discussed the landscaped areas and curbing. Mr. Warburton stated the project is coming along great. He discussed that there will not be a clock tower in the new complex. If the winter is good, there will be more progress. He stated to checkout nhstateparks.org as being a good location to look for updates.

Mr. Nyhan discussed how October has been a great weather month and a lot of progress took place. He is conservatively optimistic to see good progress right through next spring. He stated if there are any questions please contact DRED, Mr. Warburton or the Beach Commission.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan asked about the September 23rd date previously given for residents to be able to look at the design. She noted it has been five weeks and wanted to know of the status. Mr. Warburton discussed that the plans have recently been updated.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan asked about the new design around the playground. She had a hard time opening that document on her computer. Mr. Warburton will send Amy a note about this issue. There is a link per Ms. Guzman-Scanlan and she can't get it to open.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan discussed video scaffolding and asked if there is any update on that. Mr. Warburton stated a discussion at great detail took place. Mr. Warburton discussed there will be some sort of scaffolding. More ideas are getting together.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan asked for status of the temporary stage task force. Mr. Nyhan discussed being contacted by Tom Mansfield from DRED and asked to work with him to put a task group of major stakeholders together. Mr. Nyhan stated the Chamber of Commerce/ Doc Noel appointed Jude David and Bob Preston to represent the Chamber. All three Precinct members want to be involved in a task group also. Mr. Nyhan met with them last week to set expectations. Seeking out recommendations was discussed for the temporary stage.

Mr. Nyhan spoke with private residents also – people with no connection to the Chamber or Precinct. November 5th at 11:00 a.m. is the date which will be the first meeting of the task group. They will get ideas and recommendations from there. Those ideas will be forwarded to DRED from there. Tom Mansfield has agreed to this proposed plan.

2. Parking Study update (Sawyer)

Mr. Sawyer discussed the parking study which includes state, municipal and private parking. State and municipal numbers are there, but private is more difficult to gain. He said he will continue to work on this project but expects that it will take longer than expected.

Mr. Warburton discussed the State parking spots changing. Mr. Warburton also discussed three areas for motorcycle parking.

Mr. Nyhan discussed getting updates to Rockingham Planning Commission. Mr. Sawyer stated he will do that.

3. Beach Project/NH Arts Council updates (Guzman-Scanlan)

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan did not have much to report for this meeting. Much work going on now is related to construction. She will keep the Board updated.

4. May 5th Economic Development Action updates (Nyhan)

a. Extending the Season Feasibility Study update

Mr. Nyhan discussed the email forwarded to the business community asking them to participate in a feasibility survey. Andy Herrick from the Casino Ballroom has been putting

together research regarding need or interest on extending the Hampton Beach season. He sent it to 100 business owners and to other individuals. He should have all of the data and comments and will be prepared to present everything to Commission at the November meeting.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan asked about the availability of the survey in print format. Mr. Warburton stated the survey is online and it is managed by online survey company. Ms. Guzman-Scanlan voiced concern about survey and respondents not being able to look at the whole survey without committing to answer all questions. She further commented on the importance of presenting survey in as many ways possible to make it more accessible and promote more responses. Concerns about the content of the survey were discussed.

Mr. Nyhan discussed that this is an initial survey to determine where the business community stood on the subject. He stated the Commission can review this matter next month with Mr. Herrick along with his presentation.

Ms. Guzman-Scanlan inquired about the status of the list of top 20 project priorities coming from the Economic Summit. She offered to help compile the list and to work with Mr. Nyhan. Mr. Nyhan stated he has this on his plate and will have this information for the November meeting.

5. Other Old Business

Mr. Sawyer discussed that he had followed up on a request to speak with Seabrook Station related to the bridge feasibility. He spoke with Dick Winn, Manager of Communication of Government Affairs - Seabrook Station. Funding sources and designs for the new bridge was discussed. Mr. Winn discussed with Representative Stiles the documents based on the needs of equipment and structure material. Mr. Winn is willing to share this with the Commission.

6. New Business

1. HBAC Commissioners – Appointments/Reappointments

Mr. Nyhan discussed Lenny Paul, Commission member representing the Precinct resigned due to his work schedule. Mr. Paul is a nuclear engineer and part of his job is taking care of outages at various locations and at various power plants around the country. It has been too difficult for him to appear and do his job. He stated that Lenny brought value to Commission and he was very much appreciated. This position was up for reappointment next month.

Mr. Fran McMahon is up for next appointment to expire next month. Fran has been reappointed for three years on the Beach Commission. Come November, Mr. McMahon will represent RPC for three years.

Pat Cronin is getting advertisement going for the one-year term as Commissioner At Large. November 5th is the deadline for all letters of interest. They can be sent to the Town Manager, 100 Winnacunnet Road, Hampton, NH - Attention : Mr. John Nyhan.

Mr. Nyhan also reported that the annual election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

2. Our administrative support updates (Nyhan)

Mr. Preston reported that he had made a request to the Chamber of Commerce for a financial donation so we can keep Laurie as the Administrative Assistant for the balance of the season. He reported that the Chamber Board voted to donate \$250 to the Commission.

Mr. Nyhan asked Mr. Preston to thank Doc Noel and the Chamber's Board of Directors. Mr. Warburton thanked Mr. Preston for his work.

3. Other New Business

Mr. Warburton indicated that he will be stepping down as the DRED's representative to the Commission next month.

He is resigning his position as of November 30th. He read his resignation. He has decided to return to the private sector.

Mr. Nyhan stated the need for Mr. Warburton to put his family before everything and he respects Mr. Warburton's decision. Mr. Warburton's intense participation was acknowledged.

Mr. Nyhan is saddened that he is leaving the Commission and DRED, but Mr. Nyhan completely understands and stated he has been an important part of the Commission and wished Mr. Warburton well.

7. Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Nyhan to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Preston.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary

November 18, 2010 is the next meeting.