



Hampton Beach Area Commission

**Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2008
Training Room, Hampton Police Station**

In Attendance:

Fred Rice, Chairman – Town of Hampton
Bill Watson – Vice Chairman, NH Dept. of Transportation
Brian Warburton - Secretary/Treasurer, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Rec)
Fran McMahon – Rockingham Planning Commission
Geannina Guzman-Scanlon – Hampton Beach Village District
Tom McGuirk – Hampton Beach Village District
John Nyhan - Town of Hampton
Chuck Rage – Hampton Chamber of Commerce

Excused:

Jamie Steffen – Hampton Town Planner (Admin)
Meghan McPherson - OEP Representative

Invited Guests:

State Representatives: Stiles, Nevins, Kepner
Selectmen: Bateman, Griffin
DRED: Johanna Lyons

Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 7 PM. .

Status of Seashell Design Project

Johanna Lyons of DRED gave an update on the seashell project. She handed out an attractive illustrated brochure that depicted the various areas of the project that will be rebuilt, from the Hampton Beach State Park to the Marine Memorial. The presentation was well received, and the local state delegation is very supportive. The next step is now to get funding for the approximately \$18 million proposal approved. John Nyhan mentioned that we should try to do as much publicity between now and January 2009 when the legislature reconvenes to discuss capital budget items. Chairman Rice stated how important a project this is for the entire State of New Hampshire, not just the Seacoast. We will continue to promote this project, which is vital for the revitalization of Hampton Beach. Ms. Lyons mentioned that more information can be obtained at nhstateparks.org or at hamptonbeachredevelopment.com.

Committee Reports

Community Development: Tom McGuirk reported that the Riviera Motel is moving ahead with its final approvals and will be upgrading its siding from vinyl to heavy plank. The Breckenridge has asked for a one-year extension. More information on the Design Guidelines Booklet will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

Beachscape: Geannina Guzman-Scanlan gave an update on the banner program. She and others have met with Unitil. Unitil would like a contract with Town of Hampton and the Precinct, and would like to ensure that certain conditions met before the project moves ahead. A Liberty Elm tree was placed at Bicentennial Park. The Boy Scouts planted the tree in conjunction with the beautification committee. Sixty lilac trees were planted in the area across from the State Park and in front of the harbor.

Zoning and Redevelopment: Fran McMahon expects that the Planning Board will not put forth any major revisions to zoning next March. There is a lack of understanding of articles, due in part to the length of the warrant articles and their ambiguity, that must be addressed before effective changes can be introduced.

Transportation and Parking: Bill Watson from DOT is our new representative replacing Doug DePorter. He announced that bridge repair work has been delayed, and is now scheduled to start around January 09. State Parks has worked with DOT to put things in motion on this very important project. The State Park lot is being used as a laydown and staging area.

State Park Report: Brian Warburton reported on State Parks, especially in the Hampton Beach area. He mentioned what a great summer it was for the State Division of Parks, and what great teamwork took place with their many volunteer groups, Town of Hampton personnel, Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Beach Village District, other state agencies and of course his excellent staff. A large number of people help make our beaches and parks look great. In August, Hampton Beach was named one of the top three beaches in the country for water quality and cleanliness. He also announced that State Parks is currently reviewing and hoping to implement the auditor's findings from their September report to Parks. Brian also mentioned that the recycling effort worked very well around the seashell this summer and was especially successful during the seafood festival. He mentioned the great efforts of town recycling committee and John Nyhan, who spearheaded this effort.

Status of Earth, Sea and Space Center: Chairman Rice reported that the "Friends of the Earth, Sea and Space Center" held a very successful fundraiser concert at the Ioka Theater in Exeter on Sept. 7th, featuring members of Jimmy Buffet's band. More such events are planned for the future. The "Friends" are gathering additional information and support from merchants in preparation for future meetings with state officials. More information will be provided on this at the next meeting.

Old Business

Chairman Rice passed out a draft scope of work for updating the Parking and Transportation element of the Route 1A Corridor Study that had been prepared by Glenn Greenwood of the Rockingham Planning Commission. Members were requested to provide comments and any suggested changes to the Chairman, so that a grant application can be initiated.

New Business

DRED Grant for Administrative Support:

John Nyhan has located a grant for approx. \$1000 to fund a secretary position for HBAC. Brian Warburton has done an excellent job filling in by doing minutes, but an experienced secretary is needed. More information will be forthcoming at next meeting.

Annual Report and Proposed Bill for Schedule Change

Chairman Rice stated that since the Commission does not meet during the summer, and holds its first Fall meeting during the last week of September, there is insufficient time to prepare the Annual Report by the October 1st deadline. He will work with State Representatives to see if the dates can be changed in the legislation that established the HBAC.

Upcoming Elections

Next meeting we will elect new officers for HBAC. Format in the past is to have one of Town of Hampton representatives as the Chairman, and that representatives of DRED and DOT hold the other two offices of Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Meeting Schedule

A meeting schedule for the next year was distributed to the members. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Brian Warburton, DRED
Acting Secretary