

approved 3/29/10

**HAMPDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2010**

Meeting called to order: 6pm

Members Present – Doug Boyd, Acting Chair, Carol Fitzgerald, Jamie Collins and Jeff Smith.
Absent – Timm Marini

Minutes – The minutes from March 15th were reviewed. Carol made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Sherry Himmelstein/Goat Rock Project – Sherry came in to explain the Goat Rock Project. The Minnechaug Land Trust is trying to purchase 36 acres from the Hampden Country Club. They have been looking at this for a long time and now the current owners of the Country Club are giving them the opportunity to purchase it. This area is listed in the Massachusetts Historic Inventory. The piece of land stretches from the end of Country Club Drive to Memorial Park. MLT has plans to improve existing trails and post signs so that the trails are well marked. Three grants were looked at; one was rejected due to the Town's low Commonwealth Capital points and a decreased funding pool. Sherry is still waiting to hear on another grant. She was unable to submit the third grant due to very costly requirements. The purchase price of the land is \$50,000. There will be two warrant articles presented at the Town Meeting.

1. There will be a warrant article for the Town to purchase the land for \$25,000 from MLT (assuming the Conservation Partnership Grant for \$25,000 is received. MLT buys the land with the grant and sells it to the Town and retains Conservation restrictions). There will be a request for \$25,000 from CPC.
2. If the grant is not received, there will be a warrant article to request two year funding from CPC; year one, \$25,000 (split by open space and historic) and year two, \$15,000 (open space and historic). The Land Trust will work to raise the \$10,000 balance.

Sherry also mentioned that a Stewardship Endowment Fund has been started for any future costs to land purchased so that there will not be a cost to the town.

Council on Aging – Rita Vail and Becky Moriarty attended the meeting and reviewed the FY11 requested budget with the Board. COA anticipates the need for a transfer to cover utilities for the remainder of FY10. The FY11 utilities figure reflects the additional monies needed for FY10 and should cover all of FY11. They would like to increase the clerical position to 20 hours, an increase of four hours per week, so that the building can remain open from 10-3pm every day. There was an unforeseen expense to FY10 Building Maintenance when the air conditioning unit caught on fire. They would like to add \$800 to Building Maintenance for FY11 for septic pumping and new handicapped parking spaces. Two grants have been applied for, the Formula Grant and the Title IIIB Grant. The annual Director's conference was

previously paid for by the "Friends", and now should come out of the Expense line. Becky will forward the step increase amounts for the Director, Clerk, Outreach Coordinator and Custodian to Advisory as they are not shown on the budget request sheet. The Activities Director is paid from a state grant. The grounds maintenance is done by the Highway Department; the plowing is done by Billy Bond and paid out of the snow and ice account. There were restrictions on the Senior Center building for the first five years, now the building is 10 years old and can be made available for rentals.

Selectmen – John D. Flynn, Vincent Villamaino and Rick Green attended the meeting. There was a discussion on salary increases and the tabor chart, and the communication system(s) for the Police and Fire Departments. The Fire Department currently uses a low ban that will no longer be licensed after 1/1/2011. The ban that the Police Department uses has until 2014.

Accountant – Cliff did not attend the meeting.

Other items – Doug gave a brief update from the Wilbraham Finance Committee.

Mail reviewed

Jamie made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm. Jeff seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by: Deborah House, Clerk