

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2006

Present: Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Bonnie Geromini & Jeff Liquori

Charlie Schmitt opened meeting at 7:05.

Motion made by Charlie Schmitt to accept minutes of July's meeting with the addition of inserting the words " a blank" Notice of Intent was given to Dr. Ghiri. Second by Phil Grant. Motion approved.

Satyendra Ghiri, 283 Somers Road - Motion made by Bonnie Geromini that a copy of the Enforcement Order issued in July be sent to the Registry of Deeds. Second by Charlie Schmitt. Motion approved. VOTING: Yes- Bonnie Geromini, Phil Grant, Jeff Liquori & Charlie Schmitt.
No- None

Phil Grant requested approval to send a letter from the Commission in response to an article appearing in the August 14, 2006 Reminder regarding Laughing Brook. In the article, Mary Shanley-Koeber, Director, Laughing Brook is quoted as saying that the Commission will not permit Mass Audubon to reopen the entryway as part of the emergency repair.

As this information is incorrect, Phil felt an article should be written clarifying the information. Motion made by Charlie Schmitt to have Phil send a letter to the Reminder. Second by Jeff Liquori. Motion approved.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION- GIRL SCOUTS – MEMORIAL PARK-

Girl Scouts would like to refurbish the old pavilion (new roof and painting) and replace the wooden bridge. Determination also included replacing a broken concrete culvert in the brook. The Commission felt that this was not something the Girl Scouts should consider doing. Charlie Schmitt made motion on behalf of the Girl Scouts to remove reference of replacing concrete culvert in the brook. Second by Bonnie Geromini. Motion approved. VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Phil Grant, Bonnie Geromini & Jeff Liquori.

Motion made by Bonnie Geromini that a Negative Determination be made on the Request for Determination as amended. Second by Charlie Schmitt. VOTING: Yes- Charlie Schmitt, Bonnie Geromini, Phil Grant & Jeff Liquori.

JEFF KERN- Minnechaug Mountain- Mr. Kern attended meeting to alert Commission members to the damage being done on Minnechaug Mountain by 4-wheelers and dirt bikes. They have dug up the trails and damage is being done to the wetlands. Mr. Kern reported the vehicles have damaged the little brook by the VFW and there are many vernal pools in this area.

Bonnie Geromini has spoken to Sherry Himmelstein as to any restrictions that may be on the property regarding 4-wheelers and dirt bikes. No restrictions are in place at this time.

If restrictions are to be placed on use and a penalty for violations, it will need to be set by the Selectmen. Charlie Schmitt proposed a site visit to be done on Saturday, August 26th at 8:00 pm. and the Selectmen will also be asked to attend.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATIONS- DION, KIBBE & SCHMITT-

These request were for landscape management of downed trees from the October 2005 storm. A review and discussion of Section 5 of the Town of Hampden wet-land by-laws was held. Following discussion, it was felt that this section gave the Commission the flexibility needed in reviewing small maintenance issues. In these situations, residents only need to provide information on proposed work to be done but no filing or fee will be required.

FOREST CUTTING PLAN- SOUTH ROAD-

A plan for cutting of trees on South Road was received today. The plan has already been approved by the DEP. Carmine will be contacted for further clarification.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mikkola, Clerk

Minutes approved on Sept. 20, 2006