

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS**

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Conservation Commission
Bonnie Geromini
Judy McKinley Brewer
Philip Grant
Ted Zebert
Andrew Netherwood
Tim Hanley

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 15, 2017

Attendance: Chairman, Bonnie Geromini, and Conservation Board Members Judy McKinley Brewer, Phil Grant, Ted Zebert and Andrew Netherwood were in attendance.

Not in attendance: Board member Tim Hanley was not in attendance.

Bonnie Geromini made a motion to open the meeting at 7:00p.m. Phil Grant seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Minutes from the 2/15/17 meeting were reviewed and accepted with amendments.

Chairman Bonnie Geromini welcomed Branden Garvey to the meeting. Branden is a resident of Hampden and a senior at Westfield State University who is interested in joining the Commission. Branden is majoring in environmental science, with a concentration in Wetland planning and management. The board briefly spoke to Branden, answering some of his questions regarding the functions of the Conservation Commission. The board informed Branden that they would love him to join the commission.

Correspondence:

- Request for Determination provided by Eversource for proposed solar site @ 227 Mill Rd: Bonnie passed out the request to the other board members, and informed them that a site visit will need to be scheduled prior to their presentation. They are scheduled to come in at our special meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 @ 7:45pm.
- Hampden Hardware Store, #478-488 Main Street: Bonnie informed the board that Jeff Parent, the new owner of the property, had not signed the request that was sent in. When she had contacted him, he stated that he was out of town and asked if his cousin could come to the office to sign it. The board asked the clerk to contact Mr. Parent to inform him that he must be the one to sign the request as he is the applicant and owner of the property.
- Lot 8, Parcel 2-4 South Rd: Bonnie informed Phil that she had received an email regarding the property asking that Phil meet Ryan Morton, the owner of the property, to take a look at the silt fence and erosion control. The owner has asked to be present so he can immediately fix any deficiencies he might find. Phil informed Bonnie he will follow up with the owner.

New Business:

- Order of Conditions for Lot 2-A South Monson Rd. - Bonnie reviewed the Order of Conditions written for Mr. and Mrs. Valentine @ Lot 2-A South Monson Rd. All of the board members reviewed the conditions and accepted them as written. The board voted unanimously and signed the Order of Conditions to be mailed out.
- Connie Witt from the Historic Commission – Connie Witt approached the board on behalf of the Town of Hampden Historic Commission. She informed the board that the Historic Commission is attempting to add a bylaw to a warrant at the Spring Town meeting. The bylaw would allow a 6 month demolition delay of a historical property. She explained that there would be a list of the approximately 340-350 properties in town that would be affected by the bylaw, however the by law would not affect property rights. If the property is beyond repair, the demolition delay would allow the Historic Commission time to find people who could save certain items by salvaging them from the home. She stated that the approval of this bylaw would assist the town in conserving our cultural resources. She presented a copy of the bylaw they are hoping to pass and requested the Conservation Commission’s support at the Spring Town Meeting, by voting in favor of the Demolition Delay.
- Open Space & Recreation Plan – Judy informed the board that it is time to update the town’s Open Space & Recreation Plan, which must be renewed every 7 years. She explained that the town has been granted some assistance with the project through Pioneer Valley Planning Commission however the rest must be done from within the town house. Phil also suggested using the Mass GIS as well to obtain some of the information needed for the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Judy mentioned that she and Bonnie thought it would be beneficial to hire Kelly, the temporary Conservation clerk, using money from Conservation funds. Kelly can assist in going through the public records to gather information for the project which she is already familiar with from working in the Assessor’s office. The board agreed that it would be a cost effective way of updating the plan. Judy made a motion to pay Kelly the hours required to update the chart in the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Phil seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Judy notified the board that she will be putting a notice in an upcoming scribe to inform residents that volunteers are needed to complete the visioning update, survey, etc. The Conservation Commission’s email will be listed in the ad in the paper. Judy informed the clerk to tell anyone who asks that it is a short term commitment from July through October of 2017.

Bonnie made a motion to close the meeting at 8:22, Andrew seconded the motion. The board was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly McCormick
Conservation Clerk