

*Town of Hampton*



*Department of Resources and  
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission  
100 Winnacunnet Road  
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842  
Selectmen's Meeting Room – Town Hall  
Monthly Meeting – April 27, 2017  
7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative  
Bill Watson, NHDOT, Vice Chairman  
Rick Griffin, Selectmen's Representative  
Fran McMahon, Rockingham County Planning Council  
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce  
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District

**Excused:** Michael Houseman, DRED Operations Supervisor  
Dean Merrill, Town of Hampton Representative

**Others Present:** Jason Bachand, Town Planner  
William Rose, DOT Project Manager

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Introduction of Commissioners.**

**Public Comments related to Agenda Items. Charlie Preston**

Mr. Preston spoke on the Ashworth Avenue Parking Lot exiting out to Brown Street to alleviate traffic. He reported on the meetings he has attended, including past HBAC meetings and a Board of Selectmen's meeting and would

like to see if he could get this project to move forward with either a motion by the HBAC or a look-back by others who may have expertise. He noted that Brown Ave is wider than other streets and has no parking on either side. He has spoken with the Police and Fire Departments as well as DPW and would like to see more conversation on the matter. This, he said, would achieve goals to get traffic off the Boulevard. He noted that both the Police Chief and Fire Chief said this plan would not be a problem. It would also increase revenues for the Recreation Department programs. He said he would appreciate the help of the HBAC.

Mr. Nyhan said he would open discussion on this matter under Old Business this evening.

**Appointments.** Chris Jacobs, DPW Director, Beach Sewer Project .  
Postponed to a future date.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Review and Approval of the February 14, 2017 Minutes and March 23, 2017 meeting.**

**MOTION: It was Moved by Mr. Watson, Seconded by Mr. Rage to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2017 Meeting as presented**

**VOTE: 7 In Favor, 2 Excused**

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION: It was Moved by Mr. Preston, Seconded by Mr. Rage to approve the Minutes of the March 23, 2017 Meeting as edited on page 4, paragraph 1 by replacing:  
“There are 18 units now and there will be 18 additional added” replace with “There are 18 units now which will be demolished and rebuilt.”**

**VOTE: 7 In Favor, 2 Excused**

**MOTION PASSED**

**TREASURER’s REPORT: Mr. Nyhan for Mr. Houseman**

Mr. Nyhan reported that the balance as of today is. \$9,628.43.

**MOTION: It was Moved by Mr. Rage, Seconded by Mr. Preston to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.**

**VOTE: 7 In favor, 2 Excused**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Transportation Grant discussion – Task Order #3 from William Rose.**

Mr. Rose provided the Commission with an Agreement for Professional Services between VHB and NH DOT, Master Plan Update – Task Order #3 dated March 2, 2017. The Scope of the Work shows in detail the services to be performed. Mr. Rose also provided a Schedule for Task Order #3 dated April 25, 2017 with projected completion dates. Both are available from the Commission.

Mr. Rose reviewed the report, page by page noting the following:  
The remaining dollars from the original \$300,000 received in 2013 are being used. This amount is \$131,000; VHB is looking at the feasibility of options from the comments received; and, Task Order #3 is focused on refining alternatives, following which a preferred option can be chosen and preliminary engineering can be started as allowed within the limits of the contract budget.

He reviewed the Southern Intersection area; Ocean Boulevard South; Ashworth Avenue; and Ocean Boulevard North, all of which are detailed in the March Report.

The Scope of Services in the Report details the specific areas to be evaluated. This includes the Base Map Preparation and Existing Surface Preparation. It is assumed the above work will be completed for only the Southern Intersection Area and Ocean Boulevard South due to budgetary constraints of the Scope.

The Scope provides detailed information on the Southerly Intersection Area Preliminary design including Traffic Analysis, Roundabout Alternative Development; Signalized Alternative Development, Construction cost estimates and NHDOT Coordination. Also detailed is the area of Ocean Boulevard South and includes three segments, the Southerly Segment, Middle and Northern Segments with construction cost estimates.

Mr. Rose stated that Task Order #1 is not yet complete – “Completing the Master Plan”. They will return to Task Order #1 once Task Order #3 is completed.

Moving on, VHB is now going through the efforts of “will this work, will this provide adequate level of service; and, do we have the space”. Alternatives are being talked through and there is some coordination beyond what has been undertaken. With regard to cost estimates, Mr. Rose stated there is a ball park baseline regarding costs.

Mr. Nyhan questioned if there has been work on the preliminary design from Haverhill Street to the Playground; and, Mr. Rose stated there will be consideration of this. He further said, that this is to provide safe passage and whatever can fit will be included.

Mr. Nyhan also asked if Task Order #3 is covering considered priorities with the money left in the contract. Mr. Rose said the money left will not cover any preliminary design on Ashworth Avenue except for the roundabout and signals; and, the second northern area of Boars Head to Winnacunnet is not being considered.

Mr. Nyhan then asked, if moving to Task Order #4 and, if wanted Boars Head to Winnacunnet to go forward, is there a way to get an idea how much would have to be added to make this section happen. Mr. Rose commented that a contract is a contract and cannot be changed. Money will have to be found in the existing budget. Further, another funding source cannot be added to this contract. Dollars or time cannot be added as his contract has been set for a defined period of time at a certain amount of dollars. There cannot be an open-ended contract.

On question of Mr. Nyhan regarding searching out another grant which would go to DOT for preliminary design for Boar’s Head to Winnacunnet, Mr. Rose said yes, there could be a new contract. Mr. Rose also stated that some of the money from the 10-year plan available in 2018 could support the Boar’s Head to Winnacunnet section.

Mr. Rose, on question from Mr. Griffin, stated that Boar’s Head to Winnacunnet is not included as there is only so much one can do with the money left. The initial priorities were Ocean Boulevard and the Southern End.

Mr. Griffin then referred to the area on Ocean Boulevard around his and neighboring properties with severe water problems. DOT is preparing to install a swale. He said the problem is so bad, people cannot use parts of their property as there is water draining from drains that do not work. Further, in heavy rains, cars passing spray water up on front windows and doors, and often, front doors cannot be used.

Mr. Watson responded saying that the purpose of the funds was not to do construction but to first update the Master Plan, then take additional money and focus on areas the HBAC felt were important as far as the funding would go in order to design a more detailed plan. The right fix, he said, is a long term capital project which can move along after the Master Plan update including the long-term improvement of Ocean Boulevard. The Master Plan is not complete and when it is, then perhaps more funding through the ten-year plan would be available to make capital improvements which would include drainage remediation.

Mr. Nyhan asked, in terms of the ten-year grant, without engineering money available in 2018, is there a process through the State government to ask for 2018 funds to be released earlier. Mr. Watson said that is not possible because of the federal rules that go along with the funding.

Mr. Nyhan further stated that he wants to make sure that, since the HBCA went to Task Order #2, there needs to be a priority when funds are released from the ten-year plan.

Mr. Rose then reviewed the Schedule noting the activities and completion dates. He highlighted proposed HBAC meetings to be held on September 8, 2017, February 15, 2018, and May 15, 2018. These meetings are when DOT and VHB will tentatively come in to meet with the HBAC. The completion date for the Final Master Plan is July 1, 2018.

Mr. Nyhan questioned 1) if the schedule is followed, would we have an understanding of areas now talked about in design and construction costs and is this enough detail to start on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to look to add to the \$8 million in the ten-year plan and go back to Washington and b) Will we have enough information to finalize a final application to get Ocean Boulevard redeveloped.

Mr. Rose said the cost estimates should be ready by late fall or early winter.

Mr. Ladd asked if FEMA is adjusting their rules and would this have impact on what Mr. Griffin has reported this evening. Mr. Rose stated that he does not have enough information to respond to Mr. Ladd's question.

Mr. McMahan questioned the scheduling, noting that the Town owns a lot of streets which will have to figure into the decision. It was pointed out the answer will come in the design phase. Mr. McMahan noted that people from the Town need to be involved in the plan. Mr. Rose stated that everyone who is part of this conversation is represented in the HBAC – HBVD, RPC, Planning Board, Selectmen's Representative, etc.

Mr. Nyhan commented that the Commissioners have to go to their organizations, boards, commissions for sign-offs after presentations.

Mr. Watson noted that it is important to go back to the various organizations represented by the Commissioners to let them know the HBAC is doing its best effort to bring ideas back to the organizations. He also commented that July 1<sup>st</sup> is a check book and formality for people to support the plan.

Mr. Bachand stated that he reports to the Town's Planning Board on a regular basis.

Mr. Nyhan thanked Mr. Rose for being present and providing the information this evening.

#### **Old Business:**

**1. Progress Report – Partnership with HPD. –Pending for May meeting**

**2. Discussion – any additional Commission objectives for coming season**

Mr. Nyhan asked that the Commissioners provide him with additional objectives.

**3. Annual Report – Presentation to BOS – April 17 meeting**

Mr. Nyhan reported he attended the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on April 17, 2017 and provided updates on the HBAC projects, which met with favorable response from the BOS.

**4. Other Old Business.**

As noted above under Public Comment, the Commission opened discussion on the Ashworth Avenue Town Parking Lot with exit on to Brown Avenue and whether to recommend the proposal with consideration and cooperation of the Recreation Department, and Police and Fire Departments. It was suggested that this could be a pilot project for the summer.

Mr. Rage stated that this project is something that should be considered, especially for major concert, event, and firework nights. He stated it would alleviate traffic and could only help if the Town would open the gate on those evenings.

Mr. Griffin noted that the Board of Selectmen would require opinions in writing from the Police and Fire Departments if they should choose to consider the project.

**MOTION: It was Moved by Mr. Rage, Seconded by Mr. Preston to recommend the Town open the gate from the Ashworth Town Parking Lot to allow exit onto Brown Avenue on firework nights and major concert/event nights during the summer in order to help alleviate traffic issues.**

**VOTE: 7 In favor, 2 Excused**

**MOTION PASSED**

**New Business:**

**1. Informal Presentation – upcoming funding possibilities at the Federal level in transportation areas  
Mr. Watson**

Mr. Watson said his news is not all great in that funding at State level for transportation projects is non-existent. There is a small amount of funding provided for the “Complete Streets” program. He also noted there is lot of confusion coming out of the Legislature on the 2018-2019 budget and the Senate is starting with the Governor’s version of the budget. He stated that a lot of funding, with regard to transportation, would be directed toward bridges, etc. and not much happening with transportation at the State level.

Mr. Watson also commented that there are no details, time lines, or information available on the Federal level either. The state of the current operating budget is still scheduled for shut down tomorrow (April 28, 2017) and funding proposals do not help transportation. He stated that Tiger funding may be cut as well as federal highway funding and that transportation is not a popular topic.

Mr. Watson says he does not see any new sources of revenue; however, 2016 funding levels continue with an opportunity to increase funding if Congress should choose to fund at that level, which would be lower. Standard funding levels are the same and not being taken away. He spoke to the Fast Lane Program which is basically freight transportation, continuing to exist.

He said that if looking for congestion relief, some small pieces may be looked at under Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ).

**2. May meeting request – RPC.** Mr. Nyhan noted that the RPC has a number of projects and funding sources which focus on improving the beach area. He and Mr. McMahon will set up a future meeting for discussion between the HBAC and RPC.

**3. Other New Business**

The State Parks will hold their Spring Operational Meeting on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room above the Seashell from 5 – 6:30 pm. Attendance is encouraged.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, May 23, 2017 at 7:00 pm LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED. Please note date change.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** It was Moved by Mr. Ladd Seconded by Mr. McMahon to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

**VOTE:** 7 in Favor, 2 Excused

**MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Marchand, Secretary

**Thank you Channel 22.**