



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2009
Training Room, Hampton Police Station**

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Brian Warburton, Vice Chairman, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Bill Watson, Secretary/Treasurer- NH Department of Transportation
Fred Rice, Town of Hampton
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan- Hampton Beach Village District
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Chuck Rage- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Steffen- Hampton Town Planner (Administration)
Candice Sicard- Secretary

Guests:

Cliff Sinnott, Rockingham Planning Commission
Dave Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission

Excused:

Tom McGuirk- Hampton Beach Village District

Chairman Nyhan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes: 03/26/09:

Page 2: "Ms. Scanlon said the project is basically shoveled ready." changed to "Ms. Guzman-Scanlan said the project is basically shovel ready."

Page 2: "There was discussion about the fact that the money had already been raised and that the wording raise and appropriate triggered the wrong response from voters." changed to "There was discussion about the fact that the money had already been raised and that the wording raise and appropriate triggered the wrong response from voters."

MOVED by Mr. Watson to approve the minutes for the 03/26/09 meeting as amended.

SECOND by Mr. Rage

VOTE: 6-0-1 MOTION PASSED Mr. Warburton abstained

Chairman's Report

1. Public input comments

Chairman Nyhan noted that at the public input session this week Mr. Preston recommended the Commission work on the communication between the Town, State and Precinct partnership to promote user friendly land use and swap as a cooperative process. He also suggested there be a playground open for year-round use, though unsure of the location. Mr. Rage and Mr. Warburton addressed the playground issue noting that trash, vandalism, extensive repairs and the hardened sand during winter months prevents the playground from being open all year. In addition Mr. Rage added that he believes there has been far greater communication than in the past between these three agencies. There was discussion about the beach fire station and Mr. Rice said he believes there needs to be a balanced discussion with the Town and Precinct about the land around the fire station.

2. Hampton Beach Redevelopment Campaign – Brief Update (Nyhan)

Chairman Nyhan said that on April 30, 2009 at 8:30 am in Concord, the Senate Capital Budget Committee public hearings will take place. There will be an opportunity to testify in front of the committee supporting the Beach Redevelopment Project, and Chairman Nyhan will make an appearance on behalf of the HBAC. He urged all that would be available to come to this meeting and to sign in, making note you are in favor of the project. On a related note, Chairman Nyhan said that Mr. Watson has been an important player in having DOT as a partner in this project. Chairman Nyhan had a successful meeting with the Commissioner Campbell and he is interested in supporting this project.

Project Reports:

1. Transportation and Parking – Bill Watson & Cliff Sinnott (RPC) - Transportation & Parking Study Discussion

Mr. Watson noted he was asked to look into ways to fund a parking study since our first effort with REDC failed. Mr. Watson facilitated a small committee of Commission members and they decided on the most important parking and transportation issues. He said that there was a lot of good work in the Master Plan's Transportation Chapter, but needs to be update. Recognizing this, Mr. Watson also noted that there should also be a plan to implement any strategies that are outlined in the update both in the short and long term. Mr. Watson noted that DOT has a relationship with the RPC and others in the State. They work with them on transportation issues and for a biannual contractual agreement, which he spoke to Mr. Sinnott about.

Mr. Sinnott noted that the biannual work program has certain DOT and Federal requirements. Every two years they develop the scope of work for the next two years, but there is flexibility in this. One is called local technical assistance program which can accept requests / applications for help. Mr. Sinnott noted that he has committed to do this project either with left over funds from old contract or new funds. He said that this is written into the current work program now, while they are defining the scope. Mr. Sinnott said that the project is in the new work program so no application will be required. Mr. Sinnott also detailed the logistics of the administration and procedural requirements, including the RFPQ selection process for professional services. He also noted that Mr. Walker has been looking at the associated data issues.

Mr. Walker spoke briefly about some of the data collection issues at the beach, and how traditional methods like the tubes will not be entirely accurate, due to the nature of Hampton Beach. He said that the stop and go traffic often causes the data to miscount cars, and also there are people cruising around the beach in a circle, and these cars may also provide less accurate data, so collection methods will need to be altered, possibly including someone onsite counting and watching vehicles. Mr. Walker said that the parking aspect of data collection is straightforward, assuming they are looking at the same information that is there, and anything additional needs to be decided upfront. He said that the information included in the current plan is good, but dated. Mr. Walker also addressed if the information received from the parking data is different, will that also change the recommendations, and if it will not, than it may be a large undertaking. Mr. Rice believed that in order to do a comprehensive study it would be important to have all the data used be as accurate and up to date as possible.

Mr. McMahon wanted to clarify that the parking study initially kicked off this project and this then lead to the transportation section needing to be updated. The parking aspect has associated policy issues including the Town, State and Precinct and private hands all having some form of parking provided to the beach. Traffic flow and the overall vision of the project were discussed.

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan discussed how old data is not accurate data which is a bad point to start a project from. She said that there are basically twelve weeks where the beach sees the most people, but it is also important to have year-round strategies on how to attract people to the area. She also clarified that any money from the old contract could be rolled into the new one, and that there is a \$4,000.00 local match to the \$20,000.00 allotted, which can be provided as in-kind services. There was discussion about peak times to measure the traffic and also whether or not private parking lots are considered in the parking study.

There was also discussion about the reasons that draw people to the beach and how data collection should be a sampling of those attractors such as fireworks, concerts, hot days and weekends. It was noted that from June 20th – August 20th is be peak time for data collection.

Chairman Nyhan asked how realistic this is to begin for this summer, and Mr. Sinnott noted that the RFP would need to go out very soon in order to find consultants and get responses. Mr. McMahon also suggested if the new pay stations are capable of data collection, it may be good to use this in the study as well.

Old Business:

1. Legislation amendment regarding HBAC

It was noted that at the previous meeting there was a unanimous vote for Chairman Nyhan to look into organizations/people for a ninth commissioner since there was a request for the OEP to drop out. The CEDC was suggested and Dan Gray's name was mentioned as a possible commissioner. Chairman Nyhan noted that the Commission has until April 30, 2009 to work with Representative Stiles to make an amendment to the original house bill in order to replace the OEP with another organization. The CEDC was discussed.

2. Other

Mr. Watson spoke briefly about the bridge construction and that flaggers would be out this weekend, anticipating warm weather and high traffic volume. He noted that if the closure request is approved by the Coast Guard, the bridge may have the possibility of two lanes being open by May 18.

New Business

1. Rockingham Planning Commission – 10 Year NH DOT Project Plan

There was discussion about the TAC meeting and the number of Hampton related projects suggested to be integrated in the ten year plan including the interchange between Route 1 and Route 101, and the Hampton river bridge reconstruction

2. NH State Park System 10 Year Development Plan

Chairman Nyhan said that he will be attending a meeting in Concord hosted by DRED regarding the NH State Park System – 10 year Development Plan. He recommended if any other Commissioners had comments to email them to him prior to the meeting.

3. Initial discussion on Commission appointments – Oct., 2009

Chairman Nyhan asked the Commissioners to begin thinking about being publically appointed next October. Mr. Rice said that he would like to include some type of request or guideline to make sure each appointment represents their constituency

4. Extending our meeting schedule to include May, '09

It was decided that there will be a May 28, 2009 meeting will be held, and it is understood that Mr. Rage and Mr. Warburton may not be able to attend.

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Rice to Adjourn

SECOND by Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan

VOTE: 7-0-0 MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm