



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842**

**Monthly Meeting –February 28, 2013
Selectmen’s Meeting Room
7 PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Rick Griffin, Town Selectmen
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Walter Kivlan - Hampton Beach Village District
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large

ABSENT: Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District

Other: Laurie Olivier- Secretary
James Steffen – Town Planner

Introduction of Commissioner

Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

Mr. Muns appeared. He is in support of the idea of opening a nature or science center at the seashell in the space that was used previously used by the retail store. He feels it would be an educational opportunity for families at the Beach. Kathy Silver, a Teacher at Winnacunnet is interested in getting this going. She has had conversations with DRED and she approached Mr. Muns . Mr. Muns then discussed this with Phil Bryce to see about space. There are no

commitments at this time for that space. Mr. Muns spoke with Wendy Lowe also of the Seacoast Science Center for her point of view. She is supportive of the idea. Kathy also works with the Blue Ocean Society. This would introduce people to what's going on in the Seacoast. Kathy has all the necessary equipment to put in the center. Blue Ocean would offer support as well. There would be an RFP that would go out if this proposal goes forward.

Mr. Housman said the store is not going in this year. They have been looking to find functional use for that space and they did not find any. The State will do the RFP process and they will be looking for a good partner to utilize the space. Mr. Nyhan said the Commission has been in support of a nature facility down there. Once the RFP comes up and new organizations come forward, Kathy and Blue Ocean should come up at that time for a formal vote of support from the Commission. The formal vote could be attached to the RFP.

- Mr. Charles Preston – Public parking and related topics

Mr. Griffin, Board of Selectmen Chairman, joined the meeting.

Mr. Charlie Preston appeared. He discussed how he spoke at the October meeting about the intersection of Brown Ave and Ashworth Ave. He talked to many people about this, including the Precinct. There is still no feedback from Mr. Lupoli. Mr. C. Preston asked when Mr. Sawyer may have more time to look at this as he thinks it's a good idea. He'd like the Commission to take a site walk.

He also discussed the Haverhill Street parking lot. The entrance to the lot is horrendous and it is difficult to navigate getting in there. It's always filled with sand. The lot was mired after the last storm. He, himself, had to direct traffic at the Harvest Moon function. Police had to shut it down eventually.

Mr. C. Preston stated that there is room on Haverhill Street. There are two lanes there. He thinks this could be corrected easily and with little expense in his opinion. He passed pictures around. This will help with plowing. Police and Fire could get in and out easily as well.

He discussed pre-parking and post-parking issues. People should be able to come in and use the parking spots where spaces are available. Letting people know of meter times off and on season were discussed. Having an attendant was discussed. He believes having a "Please Park Free" sign on rainy days would be a good idea.

Mr. C. Preston also discussed the playground. Moving the playground so parents can get down there easier would be helpful. The playground used to be across from B&C Streets back in the day. Moving it to the State Park would make more sense and having free parking for families.

Mr. Sawyer discussed the signalization issue. He thinks it warrants serious consideration. The bottom of F Street was discussed. Many folks get lost because of the lack of signage. The Commission should chat with Mr. Lupoli about this. Mr. Nyhan asked about how we get this through the Town process. It would be a new driveway. Driveway permits are DPW. Mr. McMahon said the Planning Board could take a look at it. The property owner and the Town would deal with this and Police would deal with safety and it would go to Fire as well as far as finding out any issues or concerns. Getting out from Brown Ave onto Ashworth Ave could be problematic. The Fire Chief would need to be on board with this first, before Mr. Lupoli.

Mr. Kivlan discussed the traffic light at the church. Mr. C. Preston said if there's a better plan for the Fire Chief, he would entertain that as well.

Mr. C. Preston discussed Unitil putting electricity in where Brown Ave faces the Casino, and that there's a telephone pole in the middle. The power company and a guide wire was discussed that Mr. Lupoli was not in favor of. He asked if Federal money could be used for any of this project.

Mr. McMahon said signage is very poor down at the Beach. People going North on Ocean Boulevard don't realize there's an entrance there. Mr. Housman said there will probably be more signs there. Mr. Kivlan discussed voltage for the fire house.

Review & approval of January HBAC Minutes

MOTION by Mr. McMahon to approve the January Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Kivlan.

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Appointments

1. None

Chairman's Report

1. Hampton/Seabrook Dredging and Hampton docks project

Mr. Nyhan said the docks project was approved and signed into law by the Governor. Senator Stiles is in the audience and he thanked her. This should be a great improvement for the Beach.

2. Capital Budget - Beach related items

Mr. Nyhan discussed that Governor Hassan put in \$2.5 Million for the repair of the sea wall. The additional \$2.5 Million will come from the parking meters fund. The overall cost to finish it is about \$5 Million. The capital budget process starts this week. The HBAC will need to comment on completion of the seawall. He will be in touch with the Commission in the next couple of weeks once he knows when the meetings will be.

Treasurer's report (Housman)

Mr. Housman said \$23,900 is in the account now (\$20,969.75). One invoice was for the Town and the other was for the gala. Mr. Nyhan asked for him to check if \$2,000 was noted as being paid to the sculptor rather than \$4,000 as was proposed initially.

MOTION by Mr. Griffin to accept the Treasurer's report.

SECOND by Mr. Preston.

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Old Business

1. Discussion – Transportation Grant – (Watson)

Mr. Watson discussed the proposed agreement by the DOT and the HBAC to move forward with Federal funding that the Beach Commission received from the Federal Highway Commission based on the Master Plan. We received \$300,000 in funds to be matched 20 percent in cash or from in-kind donations. It was applied for by the Beach Commission. The Agreement Mr. Nyhan sent to everyone is a template and the Town and Route One CMAC project – it outlines roles and responsibilities of all parties. This is a normal course of practice and needs to

go through formalities. It will take a couple of months. The process started, but he needs to know that the HBAC wants them to keep going with this.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Agreement.

MOTION by Mr. Kivlan for the Commission to continue on the path for the grant, i.e. allowing the HBAC to enter into a contract with the NHDOT. The HBAC will be allowed to enter into an MOU Agreement with the DOT pertaining to Federal highway grant monies.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

Mr. McMahon asked about in-kind donations. He wants everyone to keep that in mind. Mr. Watson said they will be vigilant about this.

Mr. Nyhan said at his meeting with Mr. Watson they discussed this should reach the Governor's Council probably in April. We can do some planning now (not formal planning). He wants us to start to build the \$75,000 of in-kind and where it's coming from. The definition of the scope and what is to be accomplished through the grant also needs to be addressed. It was asked what the grant can cover. Implementation money and study money was discussed. We need input from other organizations (like the RPC).

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

2. Discussion - DRED updates (Housman)

Mr. Housman discussed the catering update. It went out to bid. Last year there was one caterer. This year the State is going with multiple firms. It will go to the Governor and Counsel. Updates to the kitchen were discussed to allow for better catering. A State Fair, June 6th through 9th is going to occur. Jude David may come in for the March meeting or April meeting to update the group. The Community meeting will happen in April. The State is looking at Saturdays in April so that the staff will be on hand.

Mr. Housman said he is working with the Town for the joint operations plan. They are putting the final wording together.

The North Hampton Beach bathhouses are 75 percent complete. They are on track to be up and running this summer.

Mr. Nyhan discussed that in October there may be a change of time for meters. Mr. Housman said meters will begin April 1st and go through October. April and October rates are \$1/hour; the rest of season is \$2/hour. In early October, there will not be a charge after 5:00 p.m. They will let people know of that.

Mr. Kivlan asked to have the DOT sign boards posted at the State Park noting that the meters will take effect on April 1st. Mr. Watson said that would be fine.

Mr. Sawyer complimented everyone for the great work that occurred during the storm.

Mr. Sawyer discussed safety and security issues with Jude David for the fair. He also asked about an ATV vehicle being used for lifeguards. There will be a new one for the summer per Mr. Housman.

Mr. Griffin discussed the North Beach, plowing sidewalks, etc. The Town and State need to look at this.

Mr. Nyhan discussed DRED about timing in obtaining a caterer. He noted that businesses are happy that the doors are open to other businesses.

3. Status: Lupoli Companies - requested meeting by the HBAC (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan discussed that he has not heard from Sal Lupoli. He is just receiving voice recordings as of now. He will continue to try to contact Mr. Lupoli. He thinks it's important that Sal meet with the Commission before the summer season begins. He also noted that the Ashworth/Brown intersection issue is a serious issue.

4. Status: Hampton Town Recreation, HBVD and HBAC meeting regarding Charlie Preston's ideas and recommendations (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan discussed signage relative to the different parking lots. He met with Dyana Martin today and she indicated that the Town has placed an order for its first sign. It was Mr. C. Preston's recommended sign that she selected. She has placed an order for that. It will go on the Church Street parking lot. She is getting Mr. Nyhan a price of the sign and the next sign would go to Ashworth Avenue. Maybe the HBAC could help the Town through our budget to help with the cost. Chuck Rage from the HBVD said he would consider putting the same type of sign. DRED signs on State properties all being consistent was recommended.

The parking lot at Church Street pumping station (part closed) is closed from now until Memorial Day. As long as a Hampton resident has a sticker, they can park free at any spots owned by the Town, until Memorial Day. The Board of Selectmen voted on this and approved it. Mr. Griffin stated that he is not sure if there's been a final determination. Mr. Nyhan will share the accurate information by the March meeting.

5. Sea Spray 79E application update (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan thanked Selectmen Griffin for his support on this and thanked the whole Board for the review of that application. It's good for future development on the Beach.

6. HBAC Recommended project to Transportation Ten Year Plan (McMahon)

Mr. McMahon discussed the RPC began the process of updating the 10-year plan. Mr. Nyhan and Mr. McMahon met with the Town Manager, Planner and DPW to talk about what the Town should submit. Three specific projects will be submitted. The first is the Route One and 101 interchange. There's a study underway. It's the potential intermodel facility.

The second is the replacement of the Hampton Harbor Bridge.

The third is the reconstruction of Ocean Boulevard. It is real important. Mr. McMahon looked at the Master Plan as it is what they were working off of. It was done in 2001. He reviewed it and one of the recommendations in the Beach area from Haverhill Ave to Ashworth Ave is to take Ocean Boulevard down to one lane. He thinks the concept should be re-visited. A lot has changed in 12 years. Handling of stormwater was discussed. Many regulations are in place now. Maybe some of the money can be used to refine this plan.

A sub-group maybe should be formed to work through details before it goes to a consultant. Pedestrians were discussed and 15-foot sidewalks. There will be a plan submitted to the RPC saying we want to reconstruct Ocean Boulevard.

Mr. Nyhan said this will be in the pool, but lobbying, getting support etc. will be coming in now. We need to convince the RPC that these beach projects should be considered a priority.

Mr. Watson said for the next few months the RPC and department will take a look at all of the projects coming in. There's a process for the priority list. In the fall there will be public hearing meetings.

Mr. Griffin said the new Board of Selectmen should make this a top priority with Ocean Boulevard and sidewalks. He also discussed drainage. It should be a top priority for Hampton.

7. WIFI on Hampton Beach – update (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan discussed whether we need WIFI at the Beach. He will be getting a report and will have it ready for the March meeting.

8. Intermodal Project – Public hearing notice (Nyhan)

Mr. Nyhan was contacted by the RPC that there is a public **hearing on the 101 Interchange on March 14th at 7:00 p.m.** Put this below. There will be time for people to make comments. It's here at the Town Hall.

Mr. Kivlan brought up safety and crosswalks. He noted the Town has had two fatalities in three years.

Mr. Preston asked if that end of the strip (by the pump house) could be cleaned up. It could be a scenic area. It could be a place for the crosswalk because the road is narrower there. The Port Authority owns the pump house. Mr. Watson will look into the crosswalk.

New Business

1. Upcoming Meetings and Proposed Guests

Mr. Nyhan said in April the Commission we will have Commissioner Clement from the DOT as an appointment. He will talk to the Commission and general public. He will share his thoughts and views on transportation concerns for Hampton. That will be our April meeting.

Mr. Nyhan had a meeting with Mr. Housman and Phil from DRED. The new Commissioner of DRED will be appointed in May. **The Commission will ask the new Commissioner of DRED to come to speak in May to kick off our summer season.**

Mr. Nyan discussed that at the end of this summer it will be two complete summers since the beach remodel and development. **He plans to contact Dr. Goss, who did the economic study** regarding the revenue that the State received prior to the project and what he had proposed would be the increase if this project was funded. He wants to hear hard facts and numbers of any revenue that would show us the increase of what has come into the Beach over the last two years. He would like permission to have a preliminary discussion with Mr. Goss. If it's a reasonable cost, he would ask for the cost to come out of our account. He asked if there were any objections.

Mr. Kivlan discussed a letter from Mr. Ladd. He thinks it's a great idea.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mr McMahon to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Sawyer.

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary