

HAMPTON FALLS DEPOT ROAD SUB-COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL – MONDAY, 08/01/22 - 5:30 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. **ROLL CALL** Larry Smith, Jim Mitchell, Luke Prohaske, Paul Melanson, Lyn Stan, Mike Stan (Via phone), Steve Sabatini, Alex Dittami, Karen Anderson

3. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Parking Permit Issue** – Town Clerks position (Lyn will ascertain) and our recommendation to Parks & rec on the same.

L. Stan reported that she had not had an opportunity to discuss the stickers with the Town Clerk and will follow up on that. L. Smith noted that there would be no money involved for the sticker, that there was no need to have them pre-numbered or a log kept. J. Mitchell suggested that the stickers have a white area where the license plate number could be written, thus avoiding one sticker being used by multiple people. There would be no expiration date and residents could obtain them by request when registering a vehicle. The stickers would need to be adhered to the top left of the front windshield.

- B. **Report by Ray Dumont on Fish & Game funding for the continued maintenance and operation of the Depot Road “public boat access area” (see NH RSA Chapter 233-A Access to Public Waters).**

Alex Dittami explained that the funding was for sites that are “only for boat launches” and they were referred to a program through the Clean Water Act that could potentially fund signage, paving and other improvements. Acceptance of State Funds would require that the area be open to all. They were also referred to the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan to determine if the area has already been included. K. Anderson will check on that for the committee.

- C. **Acquisition and installation of the recommended signage.**

1. **Depot Road Requirements**

The Selectmen have approved the signage as requested and the question now is where the funds would come from.

K. Anderson noted that the 2022 Recreation budget included \$500 for Depot Road signage. J. Mitchell will get the sign mock-ups to K. Anderson and L. Stan. K. Anderson will get price estimates for the signs through New England Barricade, as they have done many signs for the town.

2. **P & R/Select Board's request for information on uniform signs for the Town – Volunteer or Pass?**

The signs should maintain the same font that has been used on other town signs for uniformity.

3. **Grant Status**

4. **Follow up on DES recommendation for “Living Shoreline Grant Application**

The grant has been denied, although it was suggested that they look applying for a Living Shoreline Grant. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Conservation Commission to look at that grant opportunity. J. Mitchell noted that the State is going to be doing substantial work with the Taylor River and it would be prudent to determine if the grant funds would be primarily going toward that project prior to investing much time into a grant application.

5. **Rails to Trails Coordination & Communication continuation (who & how)**

The committee agreed that it was a good meeting and Scott Bogle did a nice job explaining what the plan is and the timetable. L. Smith noted that he has been the town's representative to the Seacoast Greenways Committee and recommended that M. Lane, as a Selectman should be involved and it would also be good to have L. Pouliot involved. L. Smith said he would continue to be a liaison. L. Smith noted that this section of the trail has always been

considered for 2032 and this year it was just added to the ten-year plan. A. Dittami said that they are starting to make plans at this time and now is the time for Hampton Falls to be involved. J. Mitchell asked if there was any sense of the timing for the inter-connectivity with Seabrook. K. Anderson said that S. Bogle explained that after Hampton is completed, Seabrook would be next, approximately 2028. M. Stan said that there was no answer when Abby Tonry asked about the distance between trail heads. L. Smith will continue to be the point person for information on the progress of the trail. Shawn Hanson will keep the committee informed regarding the activities of SHEA in that area.

6. **Committee's Future. Mission Accomplished? Continue? Disband and turnover topics to other agencies (Conservation, park & rec. etc.)** The signage has been approved and Recreation will follow up with that installation; the rules have been approved. The only outstanding matter is the stickers. A. Dittami said the matter of a Living Shoreline Grant is up to the Conservation Commission. A. Dittami noted that the town has several recreation areas and he understands that the school has a bicycle club – possibly members of this committee could work with Recreation to develop programs to utilize existing trail properties. L. Smith said the Conservation Commission has a list of town properties and while Marsh Lane has trails, there is a tick problem there and parking can be difficult. R. Dumont said that some clearing has been done and the parking area is better defined. He also noted that the Conservation Commission has discussed the opportunity to connect existing trails to the Town Forest.

Alex Dittami asked if the committee wanted to pursue any grants for the floating dock project? L. Smith said that was not part of the mission of this committee. L. Stan said that the boat ramp survey that was sent out a couple years ago was vague, and it is still possible that a minimal dock could be created. She noted that the vote failed 457-364 and that the Rec Committee has earmarked \$17,000 from the Revolving Fund for the floating dock. J. Mitchell said that he voted for the boat ramp if it was going to be for Hampton falls residents only; he worries about creating a good set up, without fees and the resulting increase in the number of people using it and the impact it could have on the condition of Depot Road.

L. Smith suggested that the committee become “ad hoc” and meet at the call of the Chairman as needed. A. Dittami suggested that the committee stay in place and meet quarterly to monitor the trash, erosion, traffic at the Depot and refer any concerns to the Recreation Committee.

L. Smith MOTIONED to change the Depot Road Advisory Committee to an “ad hoc” committee.

J. Mitchell SECONDED

VOTE: 5 FOR

Alex Dittami said that he would like to retire as Chairman.

L. Smith MOTIONED that James Mitchell be appointed Chairman and Luke Prohaske be Vice-Chairman.

A. Dittami SECONDED

VOTE: 5 FOR

L. Smith MOTIONED to adjourn at 6:30

A. Dittami SECONDED

VOTE: 5 FOR

Minutes taken by K. Anderson