

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
12/7/2023

Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm at the Kingston Community Library

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Shaw Tilton, Linda Foss, Bob Smith, Greg Senko (Zoom)

Excused Absences: Elizabeth Mello, Charles Hart (Select Board Ex Officio)

Guests: Travis Yandow, Environmental Specialist, Eversource
Sherry Trefry, Director of Energy and Environmental Services, VHB
Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 11/9/23 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor.

Eversource Structure Replacement Project:

Travis Yandow of Eversource and Sherry Trefry of VHB appeared before the Commission to present the plan to replace a single transmission tower located on their easement adjacent to the Kingston Powwow River Conservation Area. Access to the tower will temporarily impact the wetland area along the Blue trail leading to ET's Landing. This is the same area where Kingston DPW has submitted a Permit by Notification to construct a culvert. NH DES referred the permit application to NH Fish & Game as this wetland is in close proximity to a potential turtle habitat and home to two endangered species. NH F&G is reviewing the application. Any construction activity in the area will need to be monitored and timed to minimize impact on wildlife. Evy stressed that the best time to do the project would be winter when the ground is frozen and less easily disturbed.

Treasurer's Report:

Conservation Fund: \$23,864.11
(Working Balance \$10,268.11, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$13,596.00)

Forest Fund: \$17,422.70

It was determined that a warrant article for Forest Fund expenditures would not be required for 2024.

The Conservation checking and money market accounts have been transferred to Partners Bank. Shaw will attend next week's budget meeting.

Correspondence:

- NH Tree Farm newsletter. Evy reported that there was an excellent article in this issue regarding carbon capture and sequestration as it applies to forestry. She has requested a .pdf of the article so that she can share it.
- Email regarding trash on Frye Road. A resident emailed Evy to report more trash dumped at the party spot on Frye Road. Evy forwarded the complaint to the DPW. Phil Coombs said that there was nothing the town could do about trash on private property, but that he would contact the property owner to let them know.
- The Nature Conservancy Winter Solstice Soiree invitation.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- Evy received an NH DES response form regarding the Unitil solar array. She also received an email from Matthew Cardin at NH Fish & Game regarding the project's status. The project is currently on hold due to the potential impact that the proposed design may have on endangered species habitat.

New & Ongoing Business:

- LCIP monitoring has been completed and reports sent to Charlotte Harding at the CLSP.
- Valley Lane foundation mapping was postponed due to weather.
- Evy completed and submitted the Conservation Commission Annual Report.
- Evy received notification that she has been accepted and a member of the Fairground Committee.

Trails Committee:

- Greg reported that this year's projects have been completed. He and Peter Coffin removed a downed tree from the Valley Lane Red trail.
- Evy covered the vandalized kiosk at Sargent with signage.
- Evy asked about a plan to monitor the trails for downed trees in the winter. Greg suggested that Conservation post a request on Facebook for anyone who encounters a downed tree or other obstacle on Conservation-maintained trails to report it to us.
- Evy confirmed that a permit will be required to remove the fill at Sargent. Greg said that Trails would need advice on how much fill to remove, how it is to be disposed of, and how the area should be restored.
- The missing marker on Green Road will be replaced.

Pollinator Pathways:

- The Seed Swap was once again very successful, with about 80 attendees and 6 additional volunteers.
- A newsletter is being prepared for distribution.
- Two new members have joined in the past month.
- Evy will attend a meeting regarding the Seed Library next week.
- Several events are being planned for next spring.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Edit and reprint Trail Passport for Youth
- Book of Conserved Properties/Granit
- Consideration of prime wetlands designation for several wetlands in Kingston

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting Thursday, January 4, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary

Action items:

Ask Eben Lewis if he can look at filled-in area at Sargent and advise how to remediate.

Contact Fish & Game regarding Eversource project and whether culvert can be done at the same time.