**Kingston Conservation Commission Draft Minutes**

April 11, 2024

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

**Guests**: Walt Roy *(by zoom)* Jeff Sluder BOS ex officio Chuck Hart

**Excused absence:** Linda Foss

*Best of luck to Bob Smith and family in their move to Hebron, NH!*

*Thank you, Bob, for 12 years of service to the CC.*

**Secretary’s report:**

* Minutes from March, MMS accepted as written

**Treasurer’s report:**



* Evy gave Shaw several receipts to be drawn from supplies and public ed.

**Correspondence:**

* Copy of aerial report from Kemp Easement by RCCD, no changes.
* Tree Farmer newsletter. Evy spoke to Greg Jordan, who mentioned that Ron Klemarczyk will perform Tree farm inspection of Valley Lane this year, since he has been conducting a Forest Management Plan there.
* Email from a citizen concerned about possible grading activity that could affect runoff into a wetland on Hillside Road. We have not received plans. The citizen was advised to send a complaint form to DES. The building inspector/enforcement officer was copied on the emails.

**Planning Board:**

* Celico: Verizon cell tower, we received new plans adjusting the location of the tower. There is also a new wetlands report. We will comment.
* Lot line adjustment 92a Main Street: no comment
* Evy has concerns about activity on several properties along Rte 125 in the vicinity of the Country Pond (superfund) marsh. She sent an email to Pedro Avila with a map and areas marked. He will investigate. We wonder if the company in the old ECSI location has a runoff plan, as ECSI abandoned the property because they did not.

**New and ongoing business:**

* Earth Day:Everyone to do a project in their neighborhood. Evy will clean up Depot Road with a neighbor. Bags available at the Police Station.
* Need for more CC members: Mr. Hart suggested that Evy send info to Susan for the town message board and FB page.
* Logging being done across from Frye Forest is causing deep mud ruts on the road at present. Loggers should not be operating, but it is also not illegal. The CC will talk with Ron K. about the possibility of a health-of-the-forest harvest if access is improved.
* Fairgrounds Committee will present to the BOS in May. Evy suggested formalizing trails there. Greg felt trails there might be difficult to maintain because of ATV use. There is no Conservation Easement on this property, so ATV’s are not illegal, though discouraged. Evy noted that at Busch Farm conservation area in Newton, ATV’s are allowed on designated trails.
* Forest Management Plan: There were no additions or corrections to Ron’s plan.
* Sargent: The entire road from New Boston Road has been paved with crushed granite. Evy was not happy about that, (because of turtle nesting) but is pleased with the culvert. The culvert is a definite benefit for the trail to ET’s Landing. Greg expressed gratitude to the DPW, and spoke of the ease of working with Phil Coombs, and applauded the cooperation we have had from him and the department. Evy will contact Krista Helmboldt at Nature Conservancy to inform them of the changes.

**Trails:**

* Evy has been updating info on kiosks
* Greg to check with Trails Committee members regarding willingness to lead community hikes in town forests this year.
* Projects for the near future: invasive plants at VL Trailhead, (possible use of Nature Groupie) working with Graham Pellerin re: fire and safety access.
* Greg has heard many trees are down across trails from the recent storm and has called out the committee to begin clean up.
* Evy did a monitoring walk at the North Kingston (Back Road) Town Forest with Katie Bates of SELT. They found themselves on private property, probably in Brentwood. Evy and Greg will walk the trail in spring to see about adding a “leaving town forest” sign so that hikers know they’re entering private property.

**PPNH:**

* Marghi spoke of PPNH having outgrown Kingston. Many towns and other entities are wanting to be more involved. We need to have members form other towns. The plan is for PPNH to wean from the CC and become a 501c3 (non-profit). PPNH thanks Kingston for a wonderful start, but needs to widen the scope of the mission now. Chuck Hart spoke with Paula. The money donated to PPNH can be turned over once PPNH is a 501c3. CC can vote to dissolve the subcommittee. It is suggested that we go before the BOS as we move forward with this to explain about the move.
* There are several events upcoming, including 3 this weekend: one in Atkinson, one in Greenland and one in Portsmouth.

**CPLA:**

* Greg reported that necessary work has been done by Newton DPW, and they are now able to process the grant for stormwater improvement at the town boat ramp.

**Other:**

* Walt reports that SELT trails work is getting busy again.
* Jeff is concerned about work being done on Mourning Dove Road. Evy to investigate.

Adjourned 8:30

Next meeting: May 9

*Minutes prepared by Evy Nathan in the absence of secretary Linda Foss*