

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
5/4/2023

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm at the Kingston Community Library

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Greg Senko, Bob Smith, Elizabeth Mello

Excused absence: Shaw Tilton

Guests: Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 4/6/2023 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

As Shaw is out of town due to a family illness, his budget summary was not presented at this time.

Correspondence:

- Kingston Lake Association Newsletter
- NH LAKES Congress, June 2, Meredith
- Email from Amanda Ellms of SELT, regarding the filled stream in Acorn Town Forest. Evy said that she had not heard from Eben Lewis yet regarding what steps would be taken.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- NH DES dredge and fill permit to NH DOT for Route 125 widening project. Evy said that there are 30-odd wetland areas adjacent to the project, as well as the large wetland north of Bayberry Pond and the area near the Little River crossing. The Natural Heritage Bureau listed the northern long-eared bat and the monarch butterfly as species of concern in the area. Evy will ask if an NH DOT representative to come speak to Conservation regarding the impact of the project.
- NH DES wetland permit approval to LER Realty for Long Pond Dam.
- NH DES dredge and fill permit approval to LER Realty for temporary access road for dam repair. It was stated on the permit that that Conservation did not comment; however, Evy did contact the contractor by email requesting to attend the technical review.

- Summit Distributing, Map R40 Lots 15, 16. Evy asked Town Engineer Dennis Quintal about whether a wetlands scientist's stamp was required on the plans. Mr. Quintal said: "I would wait to see if the Planning Board wants to do a Site Walk. That may result in needing review by a Wetland Scientist. If not, during my review of the Application, I may visit the site and then determine if in my opinion a review by a Wetland Scientist is warranted."

Trails Committee:

Trails held their first planning meeting of the year on April 26. The following projects were proposed:

- Acorn Town Forest. Extend the White trail to connect to the Orange trail. One bridge for that trail section. Place more rocks around the parking area gate to discourage ATV access.
- Manuel/Boat Launch. A kiosk and map for the parking area. A couple of benches on the path past the boat launch.
- Valley Lane. Address remaining Red trail wet areas. One can be avoided with a short re-route and the other can be made crossable by placing a large stone. Trail development on the newly acquired property. One bridge for the new trail.
- Sargent/ET's Landing. Place large rocks by the parking area gate. Remove the fill by the power line "elbow". A kiosk, map and game camera for the parking area.
- West Kingston Town Forest. Restore the rock wall.
- Frye Town Forest. In good condition, no work is needed.

Greg prepared a budget to cover the cost of these projects. The total is approximately \$3,000 which is Trails' budget for the year. Greg requested a vote on the proposed budget so that Trails could schedule work and purchase supplies without needing to make individual requests throughout the summer. Evy made a motion to approve the budget, Marghi seconded, all in favor.

The following work has been completed:

- Manuel/Boat Launch. Several hazard trees on the trail that leads to the Webster Wildlife and Natural Area were removed. The pump house near the boat launch was boarded up. The area appears to be in good condition and Greg reported that the game camera pictures did not reveal any inappropriate use of the area.
- Sargent. "No ATV" signs were installed. Greg reviewed the culvert permit application and noted that it requires a USGS map of the area.

Greg provided a map showing Valley Lane and the surrounding area. The map showed how the proposed new Valley Lane trails could be connected to existing trails on Plaistow conservation land.

Pollinator Pathways:

- The Stepping Stones pollinator garden kits (from “The Pollination Project” grant) are being distributed to the 65 winners, 5 per partner town and also to 5 seed libraries.
- The Seed Library has been a huge success and ran out of seed at the Grand Opening this year. PPNH members are working on finding seed sources to help stock the shelves.
- Upcoming events include:
 - Five days of presentations for grades 2, 3 and 4 at Danville Elementary School
 - Presentation to Swasey Elementary kindergarten in Brentwood
 - Spring ephemeral guided walk with Kevin Talbot at Valley Lane on Saturday May 6 (venue changed due to flooding in Epping)
 - Three separate events scheduled for May 20, including our Library Plant Sale
 - Presentation at Exeter Library May 31.
 - Daily activities planned for Pollinator Week June 19 – 25

New Business:

- Evy asked about a walk at Acorn on National Trails Day. Greg agreed that it would be a good idea but that it would require someone knowledgeable to lead it. Evy suggested Greg Jordan. Greg will reach out to him.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Review of Conserved Properties Book/Granit update, ongoing.
- Valley Lane updated forest management plan: Ron Klemarczyk emailed Evy to inform her that Valley Lane is on his calendar for mid-summer. He agrees that a new forest management plan is needed considering the recent land additions and the outdated original plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Next meeting Thursday, June 8, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary

Action items:

- *Answer Amanda Ellms, pending Eben Lewis' reply.*
- *Contact Natural Heritage Bureau to ask about a USGS map of Sargent.*
- *Ask NH DOT if they can have someone come speak to CC about impact of widening project on wetlands.*
- *Greg to contact Greg Jordan re: National Trails Day walk at Acorn.*
- *Evy to contact NHB about the possible culvert area.*