

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
11/9/2023

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Greg Senko

Excused Absences: Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith, Elizabeth Mello, Charles Hart (Select Board Ex Officio)

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 10/5/23 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Conservation Fund: \$23,916.15
(Working Balance \$10,320.15, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$13,596.00)
Forest Fund: \$17,411.97

Shaw was not present but provided the following written report which Evy read aloud:

1. Budget Committee hearing on November 1, 2023 for proposed Budget for 2024. Evy & Shaw presented.
 - a. Budget Committee members wanted to understand the increase regarding the milfoil line item.
 - b. BudCom members were concerned about big increases and decreases in the milfoil line item and discussed alternative methods for handling this including:
 - i. Conservation Commission funding a yearly amount, for example of \$10,000 (TBD). This would not decrease in expected down years, and CC would track balances in the Conservation Fund and pay differences from line item amount with balances in Conservation Fund.
 - ii. Warrant Article yearly - not much interest in this.
 - iii. Instead of DES funds returning to the general fund - have them redeposited into the Conservation Fund checking account.

2. Milfoil Reimbursement by DES - state funding has been found to be illegal according to the US Coast Guard regulations by charging fees on top of boat registration fees. This may jeopardize future milfoil reimbursement to towns. Greg & Evy can both speak to this further. This information came in after Shaw & Evy presented to the budget committee.
 - a. Shaw updated Kim Donahue - Budget Committee liaison - with this new information that reimbursement from DES may no longer occur.
3. The Stepping Stones grant from Pollinator Pathways is down to \$56.79. A recent reimbursement to Evy of \$197.44 using this grant was made from the Conservation Fund resulting in the current balance.
4. The \$500 from Monadnock Garden club has been approved by BOS but has not yet been deposited into the Conservation Fund. The amount on the Budget Summary page includes this pending deposit for a total of \$616.79.
5. 2023 Budget still has \$2,914.54 remaining. However, professional services, dues, seminars and training and mileage reimbursement are still pending updates and have future expenditures pending.

Greg commented that NH DES Aquatic Invasives Coordinator Amy Smagula has communicated to CPLA and other lake associations that while efforts are currently ongoing to find other sources of funding for aquatic invasive remediation, there is no alternative funding at this time. He agreed that annual warrant articles are not a viable solution, as the actual costs are impossible to predict at the time the warrant article must be submitted and approved due to season-to-season variations in invasive growth.

Correspondence:

- VLAP reports for Great Pond, Powwow Pond, Country Pond. Greg commented that there have been increased phosphorus levels in all three waterbodies this year due to heavy rainfall.
- SELT notice informing Conservation that they had used remote imagery to monitor Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests, and that these properties were found to be in good order.
- The Nature Conservancy requested that Conservation remove the fill in a wetlands area at Sargent. Greg asked if Conservation had the authority to remove the illegal fill, whether a dredge and fill permit would be required, how far down they should dig, and where to put the fill once removed. Evy has requested guidance from NH DES.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- LCIP monitoring should be completed by the end of November.
- Map R34 Lots 36 & 32. Lot line adjustment. No comment.
- 16 New Boston Road, daycare permit. No comment.

Trails Committee:

- Valley Lane. The bridge on the new White trail has been completed. The White trail has been marked, and a re-route completed on the Orange trail. The Fire Department delivered the UTV to Valley Lane to be used on this project.
- Greg borrowed a trailer from a neighbor to transport his tractor to Valley Lane for the above projects. He requested that the Conservation Commission approve the purchase of a \$25 gift certificate for his neighbor. MM&S, all in favor.
- Sargent. The parking area kiosk vandalism was reported to the police. After a discussion about how to remediate the graffiti, it was decided that Evy would create some laminated signs to cover it up. Greg said the besides the photos of the individual who vandalized the kiosk, the game camera in the parking area had produced no other evidence of illegal or inappropriate activity.
- Evy reported that the posts Greg installed to mark the environmentally sensitive area along Green Road were no longer visible. Greg to check, make sure DPW contractors are aware.
- Trails has completed its project for 2023. Next year's projects will include extending Valley Lane trails in the newly acquired section; working with easement holders on illegal fill removal; additional bridge for Acorn Blue trail, fix other wet areas on Acorn Blue and Red trails, extending the West Kingston Town Forest White Trail along Rockrimmon Road; spur off White trail in Frye Town Forest; trail development on town conservation land abutting Currier WMA and Ash Drive.

New Business:

- NHACC. Evy, Marghi, Greg and Linda attended the NHACC Annual Meeting and Workshops on November 4, and reported briefly on their workshops.
- PPNH Seed Swap. The 5th annual Seed Swap is scheduled for Saturday, November 11. A large turn is expected as usual for this popular event.
- Valley Lane foundation mapping. Evy asked about potential help from Trails members in measuring the foundation.
- Evy will write the Conservation Commission Annual Report. She requested one-paragraph submissions from Trails, PPNH, and the three lake associations.
- Prime Wetlands. Evy proposed that Conservation create a small committee to start the process of identifying areas in town that would qualify as Prime Wetlands and research the application process. Evy's initial list of Prime Wetlands candidates includes Bayberry Pond, the conserved land behind the high school, and the area behind the Folly Brook neighborhood.
- Evy encouraged any members who are interested to volunteer for the Fairgrounds Committee.

Pollinator Pathways:

- The 5th annual Fall Seed Swap, PPNH's biggest event, is scheduled for November 11 at the Kingston Rec Center from 9am – 2pm.
- PPNH hosted a table at SELT Trailfest in October.
- PPNH hosted a table at the NHACC Annual Meeting on November 4.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Edit and reprint Trail Passport for Youth
- Book of Conserved Properties/Granit
- Erosion at Greenwood Beach – next spring
- Consideration of prime wetlands designation for several wetlands in Kingston

Other:

- Evy presented several flyers produced by the Hampton Fall Conservation Commission that provided information on Land Use Regulations that protect critical water sources. These flyers were produced by a state agency with input from the local conservation commission. Evy suggested that our commission look into doing the same, and that these flyers would probably satisfy MS/4 requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

Next meeting Thursday, December 7, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary