

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

5/9/19

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Greg Senko, Linda Foss, Bob Smith, John Ricker, Ken Twombly, Richard Wilson (BOS ex officio)

Excused absence: Marghi Bean, due to work commitment

Guests: Walt Roy, Karen Conti, Elizabeth Mello

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Ken, Richard second, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

John reported that the 2018 Conservation Fund audit has been completed and the account was found to be in good order. Evy provided an invoice from Kingston Lake Association for annual dues of \$40. CPLA will submit an invoice for annual dues. The receipt for dump fees for the disposal of large items taken from the West Kingston Town Forest will be forwarded to the Select Board for reimbursement.

Evy proposed that the Trails Committee be provided with a separate budget in 2020 to cover minor trail expenses such as trail blazes and chainsaw maintenance. Major expenses, such as timber cutting, stump removal and kiosks, will be paid from the Forest Fund with Town Meeting approval. Trail maintenance expenses for 2019 will be tracked in order to provide a budget estimate for next year.

Correspondence:

The American Hiking Society sent a flyer announcing that Saturday, June 1 is National Trails Day. Evy suggested organizing a group hike for that day if possible.

SELT sent a flyer announcing a tour of Kinney Hill and Heron Pond Farm on June 15 starting at 9:00 am. Heron Pond Farm recently purchased the Bakie Farm.

NH F&G sent an email requesting permission to track spotted turtles in the Folly Brook Terrace, Ann Hannagan Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Powwow River Wildlife Management Area conservation properties.

New Business:

Valley Lane Town Forest rock damage: Several citizens reported that rocks had been smashed and left on the trail at Valley Lane. Trash was left behind, as well. Evy reported that this was done by some individuals who were mining quartz crystals. They were informed that this activity

is not allowed in Town Forests. A sign has been placed at the VL kiosk stating that mining and moving or removal of rocks is prohibited.

Library Plant Sale (Saturday May 18m 9am – 1pm): Marghi and Evy will have a Pollinator Pathways informational display at the plant sale. This year the plants will include stickers indicating which pollinators they attract.

Kingston 325th Events:

The Trails Committee, the KCC and FOKOS will lead a birding paddle on the Powwow River on May 11, 9:30 am from the New Boston Road boat ramp.

Evy is looking for a geologist to lead a mineral and geology hike at Valley Lane.

Evy is trying to contact an expert to schedule a wildflower hike.

NH Lakes Congress: John will attend the Lakes Congress on May 31.

Ottati & Goss: Jim Brown of the EPA met with the Select Board to discuss the presence of PFAS at the Ottati & Goss Superfund site and the EPA's plan to test surface water and wells near the site. Surface water will be tested at the Country Shores campground, the Lone Tree Scout reservation and North Brook. Test results will be reported as soon as they are available. The New Hampshire Safe Water Alliance is presenting a film and discussion on PFAS at the Kingston Community Library on May 21.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

Mitchell Farm subdivision: The Commission would like to confirm the location of the house in relation to the wetlands on the property. We will continue to monitor this project as more detailed plans are provided.

Signs/Trails/Forests:

Town Forest Assessment:

County Forester Greg Jordan completed the town forest inspections last week with a final walk through the north and south sections of North Kingston (Back Road) Town Forest accompanied by several Commission members. In the past Ron Klemaczyc has managed this forest for the CC. Greg thought that the forest is in good condition, but could benefit from some light cutting to open more space for white pine. He will send a letter reporting his findings an all forests to the Commission, with a CC to the Select Board. Since Greg Jordan is vice chair of the state Tree Farm System, and the Town Forests are all designated tree farms, these monitoruing walks will also serve as this year's tree farm inspection.

It was noted that limited access to the south section would make it difficult to bring in logging equipment. However, access could be provided through the property at Map 42 Lot 5 (approx. 10 acres). Evy will ask FOKOS to research this lot to determine if it may be possible for the town to purchase it to ensure town forest access.

*** West Kingston/Acorn Town Forests:**

Evy will contact both Ron Klemarczyk and Charlie Marino regarding their availability to develop a plan to manage the new town forests. The fee for the preparation of a management plan will be paid from the Forest Fund. This will require BOS and town approval by town meeting.

Action item for Trails Committee:

* As Trail Committee members map and work in the forests, witness trees (border blazes) could be repainted. Evy will find out if a certain type of paint is required.

Country Pond Car Top Launch:

Rich St. Hilaire offered to speak to Mr. Murphy regarding public access to his road as far as the proposed launch. Rich in turn will offer to help Mr. Murphy maintain the road by grading periodically.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm. Motion by John, seconded by Evy, all in favor.

Next meeting Thursday, June 6, 6:45 pm at the library