

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
8/15/19

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

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

Richard Wilson (BOS ex officio)

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder, Melissa Butler, Russell Chute – Powwow Pond Council

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Marghi, Greg second. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

John reported the current bank account balance as \$9,829.48. He noted that membership dues had been paid to KLA and CPLA. Evy submitted the following for deposit: a check for \$125.00 from the Sandown Garden Club for the purchase of pollinator plants and seeds; \$53.50 in cash from the Kingston Days pollinator plant sale. Evy also submitted receipts in the amount of \$69.00 for Kingston summer camp conservation project supplies.

Correspondence:

Valley Lane shooting complaint: Don Briggs received a complaint in reference to shooting at Valley Lane Town Forest and inquired what the rules were for hunting/shooting there at this time of year. Evy sent a reply, Chief Briggs will have evening detail made aware.

NH DOT: The Conservation Commission received a copy of the permit for work on a culvert on Route 111.

NH DES: Sent VLAP water test results for Kingston Lake and Powwow Pond.

Planning Board: Sent an email asking about capital improvements for the coming fiscal year – none are planned by the Commission.

Email regarding algae on Country Pond near Webster Grove Road: Greg checked and found no blue-green algae present, but there was a large amount of Southern Naiad in this area. He related this information to the resident by email.

Old Business:

The Commission would like to thank Melissa Butler for stepping forward as a volunteer for the Valley Lane trailhead, and for helping to organize the restoration of the wildflower garden there.

Rec Department projects: Evy organized several conservation-related projects for the Rec Department summer campers, including painting stepping-stones for their pollinator garden.

New Business:

Powwow Pond Council Budget Proposal: Russell Chute presented a proposal to have a \$14,000 annual Conservation Commission budget line item for milfoil mitigation in any Kingston waterbody. This would eliminate the need for Powwow Pond Council to propose annual warrant articles to raise money for milfoil mitigation. He further proposed that any remaining balance from future Powwow Pond milfoil mitigation efforts be transferred to a Conservation Trust Fund for future use. An advantage of this proposal is that should milfoil be found in another Kingston water body, funds for treatment would be available for immediate use.

The total cost for milfoil mitigation at Powwow Pond for 2013 – 2018 was \$106,000, averaging \$17,700/year. \$73,000 of this cost was assumed by taxpayers through warrant articles, for an average of \$12,200 per year. The balance was funded by matching state grants of 25% or more. The Commission agreed to consider his proposal and discuss with the Select Board how best address Powwow Pond's needs and the larger issue of potential future milfoil mitigation in the town's other waterbodies. Russ will check with NH DES to find out if this proposal will work with the state's grant guidelines.

Geology Hike: Charles Kerwin, PhD Geology from Keene State, will lead the geology hike on the Red Trail at Valley Lane, starting at 9am on Saturday, September 14.

Pollinator Conversation/Walk: Marghi will host a Pollinator Conversation event on Wednesday August 28 at 6pm at Three Maples Farm, 44 Tucker Road.

Pollinator-Friendly Fall Cleanup talk: Patti Loughlin of Lorax Landscaping will give a presentation on pollinator-friendly fall yard cleanups on Thursday, September 19 at 7pm at the Kingston Community Library.

Bakie School Snowshoe Trail: Michelle Merritt will organize a group of Venture Scouts to clear and mark the trail behind the school.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

***Mill Brook RV Park.** Plans for a propane filling station were provided for expedited review. However, as the decision was made on August 6 and plans were not available in time it was too late for the Commission to comment.

***3 West Shore Park Drive Subdivision.** No comment.

***Fire Station.** No comment.

***Diamond Oaks commercial building, R3 Lot 41.** The Commission would like to know how the snow storage area, as it is situated, will be prevented from running off into the wetlands below. Also, the driveway to access the building appears to be very close to the wetland buffer.

***266 Route 125, Tax map R41 Lot 17: The builders have offered to purchase a 20 +/- acre parcel of land for conservation to mitigate the loss of the vernal pool on the building site. Evy will meet with Rick Russman and Ernie Landry to discuss possible properties.**

Signs/Trails/Forests:

Bob successfully generated QR codes for the trail maps at Valley Lane, Acorn and Frye Town Forests. The app he used has a monthly subscription fee, so he will try to find one that is free. QR codes will be posted at trailheads.

West Kingston Town Forest Gate: The highway department will install sections of telephone pole to attach the gate, and have rocks placed beyond the poles to prevent ATVs from driving around. The cost for a heavy-duty gate from Tractor Supply is approximately \$350.

Acorn Town Forest parking area: This will be done after the gate project listed above. Highway Department will clear and level a parking area off the Acorn Drive cul-de-sac to keep cars off the road. A gate will be needed for this project as well.

West Kingston Town Forest maps will be uploaded to Trail Finder when the trail work is completed. More trail marking needs to be done, as well as some clearing and bridges. The Trails Committee is evaluating ways to connect the West Kingston and Acorn Town Forests to the Tucker-French Forest.

Bob volunteered to help pick up the tires that rolled from Ken's Auto Salvage into the Route 107 Town Forest.

Frye Town Forest Gelina ball field incursion: Greg reported that he could not find property markers for the right-of-way off Ram's Way, and that the area is too wet for walking at this time. It was suggested that we have copies of written correspondence between the Gelina's and SELT before speaking with them. At that time, Evy will contact the Gelinas.

SELT TrailFest will be held on September 21 starting at 9a at Burley Farms in Epping.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, September 5, 6:45 pm at the library