

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

3/5/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Bob Smith, Linda Foss, Elizabeth Mello, Richard Wilson (Select Board ex officio)

Excused absence: Greg Senko, John Ricker, Ken Twombly, Melissa Butler

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as corrected at the meeting. Motion by Marghi, seconded by Bob, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

There was no Treasurer's report as John was absent. Evy reported that she had had 300 copies of Pollinator Pathways materials printed at a cost of \$141.40.

Correspondence:

Andrea Kenter email: Andrea sent an email to the Conservation Commission concerning the proposed 800,00 sq. ft. warehouse to be built at 266 Rte. 125. Andrea is an abutter and said that she is planning to move as a result of the proposed new building. She expressed disappointment in the habitat destruction that has accompanied recent development project in town, citing King's Landing and Bresnahan Moving and Storage, and feels that the Conservation Commission's effectiveness in these cases has been too limited. She asked if there was anything more the Commission could do, for example, insisting that developers meet certain stipulations.

Barbara Richter email: Evy reached out to NHACC Chair Barbara Richter to ask what more the Conservation Commission could do to prevent the loss of wild space in and around the commercially zoned areas in town. Barbara responded that according to RSA 36-A, which defines the roles and responsibilities of New Hampshire conservation commissions, the commission's role is to act only in an advisory capacity to the town planning board. A conservation commission can provide information on environmental impact, but has no real authority to deny or change a site plan that has met planning board approval. Mr. Wilson believes that buffer zones were greater before a point system for evaluating wetlands (NH Method) was introduced, and suggested that a warrant article to revert to the old system might be the only way to increase the power to limit encroachments.

The NH Method is widely accepted, and reverting could be a complicated process.

Upcoming Events:

Election Day Table: March 10 at the Swasey Gym.

Pollinator Pathways: March 18, 7pm, Newton Town Hall: Pollinator Conversations – What Works in Your Garden?

Saving Special Places (April 4): Evy, Marghi, Melissa, Elizabeth, Ken and others plan to attend.

Pollinator Pathways: April 8, Kingston Community Library: Presentation: A Garden for Pollinators & Wildlife

Earth Day Roadside Cleanup: North Road, Saturday, April 25.

Earth Day Bird Walk: Saturday, May 2 to be led by Scott Heron. Time and place to be announced.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

Marghi, Evy and Vicki Brown of East Kingston CC met with Heidi Holman and Tom of NHFG's Nongame Program. They are organizing a project to protect monarch butterflies and other pollinators. They discussed Pollinator Pathways' efforts and the high level of interest shown by both conservation commissions and the general public. Marghi commented that while NHFG has the resources to develop programs, they lack channels to distribute information. There may be future potential for Pollinator Pathways to partner with NHFG to help enact these programs.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

*53 Marshall Road R41 Lot 7: A large portion of Lot 7 falls within a wetland buffer zone. The Commission will continue to carefully review plans for Lots 7-1, D and E, to ensure that building setbacks are observed.

* 129 Main St. Map U9 Lots 48, 49: This is a proposal to change a lot line. No comment.

*34 Route 125: The Commission wants to ensure that the planned buildings do not encroach on the wetland buffer that exists between buildings 2 and 3. Also there is no wetland scientist's stamp on this plan.

*6 Spruce St. Map R20 Lot 6: This is a plan to convert an existing building to a condominium with no change in footprint. No comment.

Trails Subcommittee:

The Trails Subcommittee welcomes new member Geof Harris.

A trail walk in Acorn Town Forest is scheduled for March 11 at 9am to determine where and if bog bridges should be placed.

Four Trails Subcommittee members are scheduled to attend the NHFG Trails for People and Wildlife event on April 24.

Ron Klemarczyk of Foreco will attend next month's meeting to discuss the proposed Forest Management Plans for Acorn Town Forest and West Kingston Town Forest. A walk of the two town forests will be scheduled for earlier that day.

Old Business:

Projects to be completed this Spring:

- Bob to contact Ken's Auto Salvage regarding tires in wetland.
- Frye incursion (Gelina): Identify the right of way to the Frye property from Ram's Way.
- Complete pallet clean-up in Frye Forest.
- North Kingston Town Forest deer stand (F&G)
- Briggs property clean-up
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Other:

Richard says that the Town will provide John's Truck and Auto Salvage with a sign listing the items that can be dropped off for disposal, as well as a camera, to discourage dumping of unauthorized materials.

This was Richard Wilson's last meeting as Select Board Ex Officio. He is leaving us to begin his new Ex Officio role with the Planning Board. *We would all like to sincerely thank Richard for the help and advice he has provided the Commission over the past year!* We look forward to welcoming Chief Don Briggs as the new Select Board Ex Officio starting next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next meeting Thursday, April 9, 6:45 pm at the library

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary