

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

7/16/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Elizabeth Mello, Greg Senko, Linda Foss, Melissa Butler, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Excused absence: Geof Harris, Bob Smith, Ken Twombly

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder, Shaw Tilton (candidate for Treasurer)

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the last meeting on June 4 were accepted as written. Motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Greg, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Evy introduced Shaw Tilton as candidate for Treasurer. Shaw moved to Kingston last year, has had a long interest in conservation and the environment, experience in town government, and is familiar with financial software.

Evy reported that Russell Chute of Powwow Pond Council submitted a bill for \$26,300.00 for milfoil remediation. CPLA sent an invoice for \$25.00 for annual membership dues.

Pollinator Pathways requested \$75.00 in funding for printing 200 pollinator planter cards. A motion to approve this expense was made by Elizabeth, seconded by Marghi, all in favor.

On behalf of the Trails Committee Greg requested funds for trail signs and markers (\$381.70), materials for two bridges in Acorn Town Forest (\$256.00), and material for two Leopold benches (\$110.00). A motion to approve these expenses was made by Greg, seconded by Elizabeth, all in favor.

Evy also reported that she was submitting several invoices totaling \$52.82 for small items for reimbursement.

Correspondence:

SELT newsletter

Letter from Ron Klemarczyk addressing several questions raised by the Trails Committee regarding his forest management proposals. Letter had previously been shared by email to commission members. Ron has proposed a meeting with the Conservation Commission and Trails Committee to review the draft of the Forest Management Plan when he has completed it.

VLAP reports for Powwow Pond and Country Pond. Greg requested a copy as CPLA is no longer receiving copies.

E.Coli Beach Testing

A question was raised regarding beach testing for E. coli. The state's beach testing program was reduced in scope this year to include only coastal beaches. The Greenwood Pond town beach was closed earlier this year due to COVID concerns and remains closed at this time.

It was noted that the beach at Kingston State Park is not being tested this summer and that while it was not the town's responsibility, the beach water quality is certainly a health concern for Kingston residents. Evy will contact the Kingston Lake Association to ask if they would consider sampling water at the beach in addition to performing their scheduled VLAP testing.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

***34 Rte. 125 Fieldstone Industrial Buildings:** In 2015 the developer of this property (Early) was ordered to restore a wetland that had been eliminated during construction. The current building plans propose reducing the wetland buffer around this vernal pool to only 25'. Evy noted that Town Engineer Dennis Quintal had expressed opposition to this buffer reduction. The Conservation Commission is also opposed to the buffer reduction and Chief Briggs suggested scheduling a site visit to review the plan and its impact on the wetlands.

***Ridgewood Association Dredge and Fill application for additional docks:** This project is subject to state permitting under the Shoreland Protection Act. NHDES shoreland division told Evy on a call that adding the proposed # of docks will exceed what is allowed in the shore frontage owned by Ridgewood - with 75' of frontage required for each dock. DES will review the plan.

***82A Main St. retaining wall:** This is a plan by Stoney Ridge Environmental Services to replace a 73' retaining wall on Great Pond. The Conservation Commission notes that this project is subject to the state wetlands permitting process, but Mr. Senko felt that runoff and pooling behind the wall had not been addressed. The CC will comment to DES.

***6 Spruce St. Map R20 Lot 6:** Condo conversion; no comment.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

Elizabeth reported that the pollinator scavenger hunts posted on Facebook for Pollinator Week were a logistical success with many shares. PP also held a curbside pickup of milkweed plants at the East Kingston Public Library, organized by Vicki Brown, our East Kingston liaison.

A yard sign has been created to help publicize Pollinator Pathways. They are available for sale at \$14, but will need to be purchased on an individual basis, as PPNH has no budget.

Exeter is the latest town to join the program, with 13 towns participating in total. Upcoming events will include a wildflower walk in September and on August 12, rain date August 19, and a wildflower and butterfly walk in September, site TBA.

Trails Subcommittee:

Evy reported that she had signed and turned in the forest management proposals for West Kingston and Acorn Town Forests, and that the BOS have also signed off.

West Kingston Town Forest

The gate has been installed, along with a lock box for emergency access. Greg will investigate obtaining several more similarly keyed locks to eliminate the number of keys to be managed. The Trail Committee's next step will be to mark trails.

Acorn Town Forest

The Trails Committee agreed that Chief Briggs' proposed solution to re-orient the shooting range away from the Red Trail would be an improvement to the existing situation.

It was decided that the bridge incursion would be addressed first by a letter to the homeowner. Evy will present a draft of the letter to the Select Board for approval.

Valley Lane Town Forest

Melissa is working on putting up temporary trail signs showing distances to the gate in preparation for permanent ones.

North Kingston Town Forest

Greg reported that the Conservation Commission has received permission from SELT to cross their property with equipment required to remove the tree stand. Greg is working on obtaining permission from the town to use a gator for the project.

Ahl Property

The Trails Committee met with SELT and the Northeast Trailblazers snowmobile club to evaluate alternatives for either fixing or re-routing the snowmobile trail between the Ahl and Noyes properties. The snowmobile club is contacting the two private landowners for permission to re-route the trail.

Frye Town Forest

It was noted that an emergency-accessible lock box should be installed on the gate. Currently the only key is at Evy's house.

CPLA Update:

Greg reported that a draft of the new TMDL has been released, and that the revised TMDL (total maximum daily load) estimates a lower amount of total phosphorus entering the pond each year compared to the 2011 report. The 2020 report also estimates that the reduction in total phosphorus required to substantially reduce the frequency of cyanobacteria blooms is lower than originally estimated. The 2011 report called for approximately 50% reduction in total phosphorus, and the 2020 report calls for a 25% reduction.

Old Business/Action Items:

Projects to be completed:

- Briggs property clean-up
- Frye incursion (Gelina): access to south side of Frye
- Kingston access to Country Pond: revisit Murphy (Elizabeth)
- Re-do tree/shrub signs at Valley Lane
- North Kingston Town Forest deer stand – Trails Committee
- Beavers behind dog park: proposal for beaver deceivers
- Trail Passport ice cream and library

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next meeting Thursday, August, 6, 6:45pm, town hall

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary