

Minutes

**Kingston Conservation Commission**

10/8/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm

**COVID parameters as per the library's instructions were followed**

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Elizabeth Mello, Geof Harris, Shaw Tilton, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Excused absences: Greg Senko, Bob Smith, Melissa Butler

Guests: Barry Gier, VP Jones & Beach Engineers, Inc.; Irena Anthony, 3 Concannon Drive; Charlie Zilch, S.E.C. & Associates; Jim Dufresne, Granite Fields; Jeff Sluder; Walt Roy

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the last meeting on September 3 were accepted as written. Motion by Chief Briggs, seconded by Marghi, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Shaw reported the current bank balances. Conservation Fund - \$10,444.09; Forest Fund - \$6042.87.
- There is \$17,000.00 left in the 2020 budget, most of which is earmarked for Powwow Pond milfoil removal.
- It was motioned and seconded that a check be written from the Forest Fund to Greg Senko for \$509.95 for reimbursement of expenses. Expenses included bridge building supplies for Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests which had previously been voted on, and disposal costs for the deer blind which was removed from North Kingston Town Forest.

**Correspondence:**

- SELT newsletter
- Annual Woodland Survey
- VLAP Reports for Powwow Pond, Great Pond and Country Pond

**Thirty by Thirty Resolution:**

Evy has been asked by the Sierra Club to request that our US Senators and Representative vote to support the Thirty by Thirty Resolution. The Thirty by Thirty Resolution is a bill introduced by Senator Udall that would set a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and 30 percent of the ocean within the territory of the United States by the year 2030. This

resolution supports the growing group of scientists who say that conserving this amount of land and ocean is the minimum step necessary to adequately address the extinction, climate and biodiversity crisis.

All members present voted to support the bill: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Donald Briggs, Elizabeth Mello, Geof Harris, and Shaw Tilton. Melissa Butler voted by email to support the bill. Evy will send a letter expressing the Conservation Commission's support.

### **Planning Board, DES, OEP:**

#### **Planning Board:**

- 3 Concannon Drive, Map U1 Lot 70, seeking a conditional use permit. Barry Gier of Jones & Beach Engineering presented a plan to build a new house on the site of the existing house, expanding the footprint by approximately 200 sq. ft. As this house is on a small lot with frontage on Country Pond, it was suggested that they utilize a rain garden or dry well to contain rainwater runoff. This property is on the Kingston-Newton town line, with 50% of the house and all the lake frontage situated in Newton.
- Granite Fields complex, Map R3 Lot 4. Charlie Zilch presented a plan to add a multi-bay industrial/contractor building to the premises with lower-level access from Diamond Oaks Drive and upper-level access from the Granite Fields athletic facility parking lot. The proposed building would be set back just 55 feet from a wetland area. A site walk to determine wetlands impact will be scheduled at a time when Dennis Quintal can attend.
- Discussion re: 266 Route 125 Map R-41 Lot 17-1: 800,000 sq. ft. warehouse. Evy commented that considering the size of the proposed warehouse and the profound impact that a business of this size will have on our town, this project should qualify as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) under New Hampshire statute RSA 36:54 through :58. Some of the criteria in determining whether a project can be designated a DRI are proximity to shared aquifers (Little River), transportation networks (increased traffic on Route 125), and proximity to municipal boundaries (Brentwood and Fremont).

If designated a DRI, the state would grant abutter status to the impacted communities as well as the Rockingham Planning Commission. This would provide a framework for the RPC, Kingston and neighboring communities to potentially negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement with the developer. Evy suggested that the Conservation Commission provide Town Planner Glenn Greenwood with a list of questions regarding this project, and to communicate with the Fremont and Brentwood conservation commissions for input. Chief Briggs expressed concern about runoff from the building affecting the town landfill, which is unlined and would be susceptible to changes in groundwater.

KCC members were urged to attend the next public Zoom with the PB on October 20. Evy will attend the TRC (Technical Review Committee) on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:**

- The wildflower walk at the Fairgrounds on September 9 was well attended.

- Marghi Bean was voted chairperson of this subcommittee by the members of the subcommittee
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Seed Swap will take place on Saturday, October 17 at the Kingston Rec Center.
- Evy and Marghi reported that the 15-minute Zoom presentation on Pollinator Pathways that she and Marghi recorded for “Zoom into Conservation” (usually a radio show) was well received.
- Evy and Marghi will be presenting a one-hour remote workshop program on Pollinator Pathways for the NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference (online) on November 7.
- Evy made a motion to spend \$54.00 on a poster-size map of Rockingham County. The map will be available to all partner towns in order to demonstrate a “pathway” of community projects. Marghi seconded the motion<sup>10</sup>, all in favor.
- Vicki Brown is doing a Zoom presentation of “A Garden for Pollinators & Wildlife” for the NH Audubon Society on October 29.

### **Trails Subcommittee:**

#### **West Kingston Town Forest**

A work session was held on September 24 to install two footbridges.

#### **Acorn Town Forest**

There was a work session on September 17 to re-route the Red trail away from the abutting shooting range and to disassemble and remove the bridge, and another session on October 7 to rebuild and install the bridge sections in two locations.

#### **Valley Lane Town Forest**

Melissa has posted the signs with distance information. Melissa also monitors the stock of maps at the kiosk.

#### **North Kingston Town Forest**

The deer blind was removed and disposed of on October 1! Greg and Linda posted additional Town Forest boundary markers

#### **Frye Town Forest**

Pallet and appliance removal to be scheduled. Evy noted that Frye Town Forest and all Town Forest trails should have trailhead signs making it clear that they are owned and managed by the Town of Kingston as opposed to SELT, the easement holder. We need more Town Forest signs posted throughout at boundaries.

Evy made a motion to print 100 new Trail Passport for Youth brochures at a cost of \$180.00 to come out of the Public Education budget. Seconded by Elizabeth, all in favor.

### **New Business:**

Evy thanked all members of the Commission for signing up for the NHACC Annual Meeting workshops on November 7. We will have great representation!

Walt passed around a brochure that was developed by Friends of the Kingston Library, as an example of what the Conservation Commission could develop to promote the recreation opportunities in our Town Forests.

LCHIP monitoring walks will be completed and as boundary markers re-painted as possible in November.

Evy reported that the individual responsible for dumping trash along Frye Road near the Saddle Up Saloon has been identified and the matter is being handled by the Police Department.

Elizabeth reported that the current occupant of the Murphy property will consult with his sister regarding access to the town-owned frontage on Country Pond. He has expressed concern about people trespassing and loitering in that area. He has reported it to police. Elizabeth will try to get him to meet with the Conservation Commission at the proposed parking site to discuss the advantages of allowing the Town access.

The Conservation Commission decided to postpone plans for a Bioblitz until COVID restrictions are lifted.

#### **Old Business/Action Items:**

Projects to be completed:

- Briggs property clean-up
- Frye incursion (Gelina): access to south side of Frye. Access to Frye back area
- Re-do tree/shrub signs at Valley Lane
- Beavers behind dog park: proposal for beaver deceivers

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next meeting Thursday, November 5, 6:45pm, town library

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Foss, Secretary*