

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

9/3/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:55 pm

Covid parameters as per the library's instructions were followed

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Greg Senko, Linda Foss, Elizabeth Mello, Geof Harris, Shaw Tilton, Melissa Butler

Excused absence: Bob Smith, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Guests: Holly Ouellette, Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the last meeting on August 6 were accepted as written. Motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Greg, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw is now an official member of the Conservation Commission. He has met with Evy and Cindy Kenerson for training and is obtaining access to the Conservation Commission bank accounts. He will meet with Russ Chute of Powwow Pond Council to discuss the details of the milfoil remediation budget.

- Shaw gave Greg a check for \$20 for CPLA dues from the Conservation Fund, voted on previously.
- It was motioned and seconded that checks be written from the Forest Fund to Greg Senko for \$277.69 and \$29.98 for reimbursement of expenses for bridge building supplies for Acorn and West Kingston town forests.

Budget Review:

The Commission discussed the proposed 2021 budget. The following points were made

1. Evy proposed moving Pollinator Pathways expenses from Supplies to Public Education and increasing the Public Education budget by \$100 to cover the cost of printed materials. She also pointed out that these expenses are for Kingston-sponsored Pollinator Pathways programs only, and that the other participating towns fund their own events.
2. Trails Subcommittee expenses will be paid from the Forest Fund. The Trails Subcommittee will provide an estimate of project costs for 2021.
3. Professional Services will remain at \$600 and is necessary for invasive control costs and future survey needs.

4. Kingston will continue to fund water testing on Great Pond and Country Pond, as well as the Lake Host program for Great Pond. Greg will provide information on CPLA's budget and agreed to review KLA's budget and provide comments.

Correspondence:

- Letter from SELT summarizing this summer's monitoring walks. They visited all town managed properties under easement with them. The only problems noted were the ATV tracks and the fire pit in West Kingston Town Forest, and the illegal bridge in Acorn Town Forest.
- VLAP water testing data for Kingston Lake Association.
- Email from Mr. Turner on North Rd. regarding shooting range. He has hired a wetlands scientist to approve range plans.
- DES/ESRLAC thank-you letter to Evy for having served on the Lake Advisory Committee for several years. Elizabeth Mello has taken over the post.
- UNH Big Tree Program brochure
- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests newsletter
- Granite State Tree Farmer newsletter – article explaining the benefits of snag trees.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

DES:

- Senters Grove Rd. complaint that a dock has been installed too close to a neighbor's property. NH DES has asked the owner to move the dock.
- Country Pond retaining complaint about unpermitted work on a retaining wall. No further information.
- *General comment from Eben Lewis of NH DES that a Permit by Notification can be approved regardless of whether a Conservation Commission signs the document.*

Planning Board:

- 3 New Boston Road: Change of use permit. No comment as there are no wetlands involved.
- Exeter Road: Accessory dwelling permit to convert existing unattached garage. No comment as there are no wetlands involved.
- 231, 229 & 225 Route 125 (Map R-29 Lots 2, 4 & 6): Multiple plans by NH Land Consultants to construct between 50 and 200 single and multi-family workforce housing units. Proximity to wetlands noted. As these are preliminary plans, we will withhold comments for the time being.

- 266 Route 125 Map R-41 Lot 17-1: Some of the proposed building, much paved area and leach fields are situated within the Little River 300-foot boundary, and therefore will lie within the Kingston Shoreland Protection District. Evy suggested contacting Theresa Walker of ESRLAC to receive more expert input on this incursion before we provide comments to the planning board.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

- Elizabeth reported that there was a good turnout for the wildflower walk on August 11, and thanked Holly and Jeff for volunteering to check people in with temperature tests and contact information.
- The Fremont Library and Fremont Garden Club had a good turnout at their wildflower walk on August 22. They plan to establish a monarch waystation in that location.
- The wildflower walk at the Fairgrounds has been rescheduled to September 9.
- Pollinator Pathways is in the process of collecting seeds for a native seed exchange in October.
- Marghi and Evy have PPNH 15-minute presentations scheduled for Rockingham County and whole state.
- Evy and Marghi are developing a one-hour remote workshop program on Pollinator Pathways for the NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference (online) in November.
- A notice was published in the Carriage Towne News asking for volunteers/committee members, and another offering yard signs for sale.

Trails Subcommittee:

West Kingston Town Forest

Trails have been marked and mapped. Two bridges are required for the trails at a cost of \$150 - \$300, depending on how much of the Acorn bridge can be repurposed. Elizabeth made a motion to approve funds for the bridges, Marghi seconded, all in favor.

Acorn Town Forest

Work sessions have been scheduled to re-route the Red trail away from the abutting shooting range and to disassemble and remove the bridge. Greg asked if Evy could contact Ron Klemarczyk to schedule a meeting with the Trails Subcommittee prior to the timber harvest.

Valley Lane Town Forest

Melissa has completed the signs and is ready to post them.

North Kingston Town Forest

Removal of the deer blind pending volunteer safety training.

Frye Town Forest

Pallet and appliance removal pending volunteer safety training. Melissa weed-whacked the main trail in from the kiosk.

ESRLAC Update: Elizabeth, the new Kingston representative to ESRLAC, attended a shoreland permit review meeting.

CPLA Update: The Watershed Management Plan is nearly complete.

SELT Update: Walt reported that the next scheduled volunteer day will be in October.

New Business:

LCHIP monitoring walks will be completed in October/November. This year boundary markers will be repainted. Evy noted that there are Private Property signs posted on town-owned conservation land on Lake Road that should be removed as part of the Manuel monitoring walk.

Evy reported a large amount of trash dumped on Frye Road near Saddle-Up saloon. She has contacted Troop #93 about removing the trash as a public service project.

Elizabeth reported that the current occupant of the Murphy property is open to having the public use their private road to access the town-owned frontage on Country Pond if the town agrees to grade the road two time per year. However, they do have some concerns about traffic on the road as there have been past incursions. Evy will speak with the Select Board and Mr. St. Hilaire.

Old Business/Action Items:

Projects to be completed:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next meeting Thursday, October 8, 6:45pm, town library

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary