

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

11/5/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:53 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Geof Harris, Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith, Greg Senko

Excused absences: Melissa Butler, Elizabeth Mello, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Guests: Ron Klemarczyk,- Foreco, Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the last meeting on October 8 were accepted as written. Motion by Marghi, seconded by Bob, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

- Shaw reported that the Budget Committee 2021 Budget Committee hearing went well and that the 1% budget increase was approved.
- The Conservation Commission is approximately \$2,500 under budget for the current year, not counting the \$14,000 budgeted for milfoil removal that has not yet been paid.
- Unspent funds to date:

4619-02 · Dues \$200

4619-03 · Lake Water Testing \$1100

4619-04 · Mileage & Meals \$300

4619-09 · Milfoil Testing & Treatment \$14000

4619-10 · Professional Services \$600

4619-11 · Public Education 278 \$122

4619-05 · Seminars & Training \$130

4619-06 · Supplies \$92.29

Total - \$16,544.29 or \$2,544.29.

Current bank account balances: Conservation Fund \$10,455.42, Forest Fund \$5,533.62.

- It was motioned and seconded that a check be written from the Forest Fund to Greg Senko for \$304.82 for reimbursement of expenses for bridge building supplies which had previously been voted on.
- Evy reported that the Trails Passport brochures have been purchased and that the receipt for the Pollinator Pathways map has been submitted and paid.

Correspondence:

- NH DOT sent a letter dated October 15 inviting the Conservation Commission to a Zoom meeting on the proposed Route 125 widening, however Evy received the letter after the meeting date.

Foreco Forest Management Plan for Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests:

Ron Klemarczyk of Foreco presented the maps of the Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests that he created as part of the forest management plan and discussed his proposed strategies for a future timber harvest.

Acorn Town Forest: This forest is comprised of 5 timber stands.

Stand 1 (19 acres) has been harvested in the past, has two vernal pools and evidence of heavy ATV use on the trails. Woolly adelgid was observed on many hemlocks in this stand. This stand is adequately stocked with no further harvesting required for regeneration. It includes the proposed site of the log yard/future parking lot and will be passed through to access other stands. Recommendation: Harvesting is not recommended other than removing hazard trees and hemlocks with advanced disease due to woolly adelgid.

Stand 2 (8 acres) has several vernal pools and some large hemlocks and pines. This stand is overstocked and as a result has very little undergrowth. Recommendation: Harvesting is recommended, especially the larger hemlocks.

Stand 3 (37 acres) is overstocked with white pine, hemlock, and red oak. Recommendation: Harvesting with patch cutting to allow sunlight for regeneration.

Stand 4 (14.4 acres) is overstocked with white pine, hemlock, and red oak. Recommendation: Harvesting is recommended, especially the larger hemlocks.

Stand 5 This stand, while overstocked with a variety of smaller trees, features a steep ledge that was once a glacial river gorge, some large old growth pines, and an extensive wetland area. Recommendation: Because of its natural features and difficult accessibility, this stand should remain a natural area.

West Kingston Town Forest: This forest is comprised of one timber stand (20.2 acres)

Access to this forest is difficult because of the current condition of Rockrimmon Road. Stone fill would be required to make the road serviceable for logging equipment. There is one timber stand in the forest which has been harvested within the last 20 – 30 years. There are many hemlocks that may need to be removed due to woolly adelgid. The timber value is no more than \$1,000 so a separate harvest is not economically feasible. Recommendation: This forest should be set aside as a natural area. If it becomes necessary to remove the hemlocks in this forest, it should be done concurrently with the Acorn harvest to cover some of the cost.

General Recommendations:

Mr. Klemarczyk recommended doing a single harvest of all recommended areas, and estimated net proceeds of \$10,000 - \$20,000, including clearing a parking area, depending on timber prices

at the time of the harvest. He recommended a winter harvest as it would be less impactful on wildlife, however it is too late to schedule a harvest this year. He will complete the forest management plan this winter and suggested doing another site walk in the late spring/summer of 2021 to assess the progress of woolly adelgid in the hemlock. The project could then be put out to bid for late fall/winter 2021.

Trail impact: Skid roads will be created for the harvest that avoid use of the trail system. Where it is necessary to cross a hiking trail, it will be done at a 90-degree angle. The skid roads will be blocked when work is completed. A substantial buffer will be maintained between hiking trails and skid roads. Hazard trees near the hiking trails will be removed.

Acorn Blue Trail: Mr. Klemarczyk noted that the Blue trail passes through an extensive wetland area and suggested that foot traffic through such an area can inhibit wildlife. He recommended abandoning the trail to reduce impact.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

- 3 Concannon Drive, Map U1 Lot 70, conditional use permit to expand the footprint of a house with frontage on Country Pond. Comment: As there is concern about rainwater runoff on this property the Conservation Commission recommends including a rain garden, rain barrels, infiltration pond or other mitigation method in the plan.
- Saddle Up Saloon, amended site plan with a modified snow storage area and infiltration trench. Comment: The Conservation Commission is concerned that the new snow storage plan will result in runoff into Bartlett Brook. Also, the Conservation Commission would like to see more detailed information on the infiltration trench and where it will be placed relative to the parking lot and brook.
- 34 Route 125 Fieldstone Industrial Condos, request to reduce a restored wetland buffer from 75 ft. to 35 ft. The Planning Board has voted to approve the buffer reduction based on input from an RCCD wetlands scientist and another wetlands scientist hired by the developer. Evy noted that the wetlands scientist who made the original recommendation of a 75 ft. buffer stated that there should be “no further development or modification to the restored wetland.” Evy will research the original report to determine the reasoning behind the original decision and will write a letter to the Planning Board detailing her findings when updated plans are presented.
- Newman tree farm (former Mayhew estate), LCIP property, Intent to Cut. Steve Walker of LCIP said that he will require Mr. Newman to provide a new forest management plan before authorizing another tree harvest on this property as several cuts had been done already.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

- The 2nd annual Seed Swap that took place on October 17 at the Kingston Rec Center was very well attended, with 15 different towns participating.

- Evy and Marghi will host a one-hour Zoom workshop program on Pollinator Pathways for the NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference on November 7.

Trails Subcommittee:

Safety Training

Greg reported on a conversation he had with Ernie Landry concerning safety training. In speaking with Rich St. Hilaire, Ernie learned that Highway Department employees take the New Hampshire OHRV online safety course to satisfy training and insurance requirements. Ernie suggested to Greg that some Trails Subcommittee members could take the class to satisfy the insurance requirements for operating a gator or other equipment on the trails. The online course cost is approximately \$30.

Ernie also told Greg that SELT volunteers using chainsaws must wear full protective gear (hard hat, ear protection, goggles, chaps, steel toed boots). They also take an 8-hour chainsaw safety course. Linda found several online chainsaw safety course options ranging from \$25 - \$50. The Trails Subcommittee will submit a proposal with course details and volunteers for both the OHRV and chainsaw training.

Acorn Town Forest

The three footbridges have been installed.

Valley Lane Town Forest

Geof, with the help of Melissa and Greg, replaced all the bent and weathered trail markers and repaired the bridge with the rotted board.

Frye Town Forest

Pallet and appliance removal will be scheduled in November.

ET's Landing

Evy requested that markers and trail information be posted for ET's Landing from the Sargent Road entrance before winter.

New Business:

Monitoring: LCIP monitoring walks have been assigned and will be completed by the end of the month.

Manuel: Greg/Linda and Geof/Walt

Mayhew: Evy and Shaw

Russman: Jeff and Geof

Bakie: Marghi and Melissa

Bake: Evy and Elizabeth

Turtle signs

Bob volunteered to cover the turtle crossing signs for the winter.

Beaver Deceiver

Evy met with Art Wolinsky at the former beaver dam site. Art said that a beaver deceiver could be easily installed at the site and that it would be possible to receive a \$500 matching grant for the project for next spring. Linda and Evy will prepare the application and Evy will present the project to the Select Board in early 2021.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Next meeting Thursday, December 3, 6:45pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary