

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

2/4/2021

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm via Zoom

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith, Greg Senko, Elizabeth Mello, Geof Harris, Melissa Butler, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

January 7 meeting minutes: Marghi pointed out a typographical error in the minutes from this meeting. Minutes were accepted as modified and will be posted with correction. Motion by Marghi, seconded by Bob, all in favor.

January 24 meeting minutes: Minutes were accepted as written. Motion by Marghi, seconded by Greg, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw presented the current bank account balances:

Conservation Fund: \$26,604.88

Forest Fund: \$5,230.80

Expenditures:

- Evy purchased some seedlings from the State Forest Nursery to be planted at Valley Lane and Frye. The purchase had been approved in a prior meeting. She mailed a check but noted that it may be refunded as they have sold out quickly this year.
- The annual subscription to NH Fish and Game's *Wildlife Journal* magazine that Pollinator Pathways donated to the Library is about to expire and Marghi requested that it be renewed. Chief Briggs recommended a one-year renewal for \$12. Evy made a motion to pay the one-year subscription from the Conservation Commission rather than Pollinator Pathways. Greg seconded, all in favor.
- Evy said that Ron Klemarczyk will be billing the Town for the Acorn and West Kingston Forest Management Plans. The bill will be paid from the Conservation Fund Professional Services account up to the budgeted amount, and the balance will be paid from the Forest Fund. Evy provided the Select Board with copies of the plans for their review.
- Greg purchased replacement batteries for the game camera and requested reimbursement. Motion by Greg, seconded by Chief Briggs, all in favor.

- Evy said that she would be purchasing a book of stamps.

Officer Appointments:

Chair Reinstatement: Greg made a motion to reinstate Evy as Commission Chair. Seconded by Marghi, all in favor.

Vice Chair appointment: Evy made a motion to appoint Marghi as Vice Chair. Seconded by Chief Briggs, all in favor.

Chief Briggs recommended that all officer appointments be reaffirmed annually, preferably in January.

Evy made a motion to reaffirm Linda as Secretary. Seconded by Chief Briggs, all in favor.

Evy made a motion to reaffirm Shaw as Treasurer. Seconded by Chief Briggs, all in favor.

Discretionary Spending, Purchasing:

Evy requested that the limit on her discretionary spending as Chair be increased from \$50. to \$100. Greg made a motion to increase the limit to \$100. Seconded by Elizabeth, all in favor.

Chief Briggs clarified the following procedures for purchasing and reimbursement: Purchases paid from the Conservation or Forest Funds must be authorized by vote in a scheduled meeting. Individuals can spend their own money and request reimbursement, which must be authorized by vote, at a subsequent meeting.

Meeting Notification:

Chief Briggs clarified the criteria for posting a meeting. Per RSA 91-A, meeting announcements must be posted at least 24 hours in advance not including weekends, in at least two places, one of which can be the Town website. Physical locations for posting include the Post Office, Town Hall, and Library.

Correspondence:

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership Newsletter

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

As of the meeting, the Conservation Commission had received no plans for review.

DOT Public Hearing re: 17 Route 125. The plan to widen Route 125 includes a detention pond for stormwater runoff. The proposed pond will be adjacent to Commerce Park and, although no

wetlands are involved, will result in a small incursion on conservation easement property. Evy has requested that the project engineer consider a re-design to eliminate the incursion.

Trails Subcommittee:

The Trails Subcommittee did not meet in January.

Safety Training. Greg took a \$25. chainsaw safety training course but found that it was not sufficient for the Trails Subcommittee's needs. He said that Ernie Landry provided links to free online chainsaw safety information that was much better quality. This will be discussed further at the next Trails meeting.

Acorn Town Forest. Bob reported that the trail map is now posted on the Trail Finder app.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

- Pollinator Pathways has been active on Facebook sharing gardening information.
- Marghi is working on the next newsletter.
- Vicki Brown will be presenting *Gardening for Pollinators and Wildlife* via Zoom on February 16 at 5pm. This event is being co-sponsored by the Library and Conservation Commission. Participants can register on the Library website.

New Business:

Checklist for Planning Board comments. Shaw suggested that the Conservation Commission implement a checklist to be used when discussing plans and providing comments to the Planning Board. He provided a sample template, which included space for comments on several criteria, including impact on wetland buffers, shoreland buffers, aquifers, wildlife, and vernal pools. Evy nominated Shaw, Marghi and Jeff to a subcommittee to develop a template and present it at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Signs. Evy obtained 20 "No Motorized Vehicle" signs from the Trails Bureau.

UNH Invasives Academy. Marghi said that she will email information on this 5-week course presented by the UNH Cooperative Extension, which provides information on the threat posed by non-native invasive plants.

Old Business:

Northland Forest Products. Chief Briggs reported that Northland Forest Products has agreed to provide lumber to the Conservation Commission for building kiosks and bridges in the Town Forests.

Torromeo: Chief Briggs said NH DES has confirmed that Torromeo is operating with bounds and are observing setbacks.

Bresnahan lighting. Chief Briggs contacted Bresnahan and they informed him that the lights are now scheduled to turn off at 1 am. He suggested that the Conservation Commission write to the Planning Board to inquire if this is the time specified in Bresnahan's original agreement, and if they plan to turn the lights off earlier in the spring to benefit wildlife in the vernal pools.

Frye Access. Chief Briggs spoke with the owner of the property on the corner of Ram's Way about allowing the Conservation Commission to access Frye Town Forest through their property for monitoring purposes. The owner will consider the request. The portion of Frye behind this property is separated from the rest of the Town Forest by Bartlett Brook and is not accessible by any other road or trail.

Manuel property access. Greg reported on his phone call with Steve Walker of the OSI Conservation Land Stewardship Program. Mr. Walker confirmed that the conservation easement specifies access to Country Pond, and he suggested creating a management plan for the property. Chief Briggs confirmed that the town plows Green Road only to the parking/turnaround area just before the fork with Lake Road and said that he can set up a meeting with the Highway Department to discuss road maintenance.

Beaver Control: Art Wolinsky will give his presentation on flow control as a solution to the beaver dam problem behind the dog park. The proposed solution will cost well under \$2,000. and town will be eligible for a \$500. grant.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm

Next meeting Thursday, March 4, 6:45pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary