

# **Kingston Conservation Commission**

## **Minutes**

9/9/2021

Meeting called to order at 6:48pm at the Kingston Community Library

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

Guests: Charlie Zilch, S.E.C. & Associates, Tim Ferwerda, Ferwerda Mapping, Jim Dufresne, Owner Granite Fields, Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Excused Absence: Melissa Butler, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

### **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the 8/5/21 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Shaw presented the current bank account balances:

Conservation Fund: \$23,099.25, working balance \$9,099.25

Forest Fund: \$ 5,234.25

- Expenditures: Greg was reimbursed \$10.00 for materials for the Valley Lane bridge repairs.
- Trail Maintenance budget line item: This year's trail maintenance and development projects will total over \$2,500, with a similar amount required for projects planned for 2022. After discussion Evy proposed that the ConCom request a budget line item for trail maintenance and development in the amount of \$2,000. MM&S.
- Forest Fund: Evy clarified what the Forest Fund is to be used for and how funds may be disbursed. The Forest Fund may be used only for projects that affect the management of Town Forests, such as forest management plans, forester service fees and surveys. Funds can only be withdrawn with voter approval so a warrant article will be required.
- Greg suggested changing the name of the Milfoil Testing & Treatment to Aquatic Invasive Testing & Treatment Balance to ensure that the funds could be used to treat all infestations in Kingston's lakes and ponds.

### **Correspondence:**

- SELT Newsletter.
- Granite State Tree Farmer Newsletter
- NH DES water analysis reports for Great Pond, Country Pond and Powwow Pond
- Foreco email. Ron Klemarczyk reported that he has completed marking trees in Acorn Town Forest. Some of the trees that he had expected to harvest will remain because they fall within the trail buffer, so net profit from the harvest will be lower than previously estimated.

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

**Smallpox Road. Map R19 Combined Lots 30 & 31.** Excavation and restoration plan for proposed building lot.

Comment: The proposed excavation site could be a turtle nesting area. The ConCom will review the Natural Heritage Bureau's comments on the Alteration of Terrain permit application for this project. According to the latest Kingston history, Small Pox road was the site of a 19<sup>th</sup> century grave for smallpox victims. If the exact site of this grave is unknown, what would the procedure be for reporting and dealing with remains in the event they were uncovered during excavation.

**21 Colby Road Map R7 Lot 20-7:** Proposed building addition. No comment, as there are no wetlands involved.

**62 Mill Road Map R22 Lot 26:** No further comment. The number of parking spaces have been reduced and snow storage accounted for.

### **Presentation - Granite Fields Commercial Condos (Map R2 Lot 4):**

Charlie Zilch of S.E.C. and Associates presented revised plans to the ConCom. He was accompanied by wetlands scientist Tim Ferwerda of Ferwerda Mapping and Granite Fields owner Jim Dufresne.

Upon reviewing the wetland buffer calculations using Kingston values, Mr. Ferwerda recommended increasing the buffer from 55' to 65'. Building plans were changed to accommodate the increased buffer. The project will now consist of two buildings that are 40' x 100' and 36' x 100' to remain outside the buffer. Also, the paved parking lot uphill from the building will be cut and a catch basin system which runs to the infiltration basin will be installed to reduce sheet flow runoff. Finally, a retaining wall will be constructed downhill of the condos to minimize the impact on the forested area during construction. There will no automotive maintenance or welding done on the premises, and there will be no additional outdoor storage.

Evy asked what they plan to do to protect the buffer during construction. Marghi asked if they had a maintenance plan for the stormwater management system. The project will require bond and will be monitored by the town engineer. A new set of plans with the described changes will be prepared and sent to the Planning Board and Con Com.

Comment: Hopefully the revised plan will result in fewer trees being removed within the wetland buffer.

### **Trails Subcommittee:**

- Greg, Bob, Geoff and Brad Maxwell have received ATV training.
- Sargent: The Board of Selectmen have approved the proposal for the parking area project. A work session to clear brush from the planned parking area was held on September 7. The Highway Department will level the lot within the next two weeks.
- Valley Lane: Two work sessions were held to re-deck the 5 bridges that needed repair. Evy said that the Boy Scouts have volunteered to remove the old boards.
- West Kingston Town Forest: Greg tried to install the trail cam near the incursion site but reported that the battery holder no longer works and cannot be replaced as the camera has been discontinued. The ConCom will have to purchase a trail cam.
- Manuel car top boat launch: The Board of Selectment have approved this project, with the provision that it will be reviewed after one year. Evy proposed purchasing several signs for Green Road and the launch site for \$39 each. MM&S
- Frye Town Forest: Evy reported that the No Wheeled Vehicles sign near the tire dump is missing. She also suggested a spur trail off the white trail through the glacial erratic boulders.

### **Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:**

- The library is considering acquiring a card catalog to be used for the seed bank.
- PP will have a booth at the SELT Trailfest
- PP will have a table at the Epping Fair

### **New Business:**

- NH BioBlitz: The BioBlitz is now underway and will run through the end of September. The iNaturalist app used for the BioBlitz is linked to the NH Granit database. Evy noted that the Granit database information on Kingston town-owned lands is incomplete and is badly in need of updating. She suggested a virtual or in-person meeting with someone from NH Granit to update the data.
- NHACC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: This year's anniversary celebration will be held at Bear Brook State Park on September 11.
- NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference: This year's NHACC Annual Meeting will be held virtually on November 6.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Next meeting Thursday, October 7, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Foss, Secretary*