

KCC minutes:
Nov. 4, 2021

Present: Evy, Marghi, Melissa, Elizabeth, Geof, Chief Briggs

Guests:

Jeff Sluder

Excused absence:

Bob Smith, Shaw Tilton, Greg Senko, Linda Foss

Secretary's report:

Minutes accepted as written: MM&S, all in favor

Treasurer's report:

Shaw was absent but provided a written report added below.

Planning Board:

- Granite Fields Commercial Condominiums: Evy read Mike Cuomo's letter to the Planning Board, and in consideration of his comment that the project will significantly diminish the wetland buffer and reduce its effectiveness, as well as the steepness of the incline to Little River and the sensitivity of this wetland area due to past pollution, all make this buffer a particularly undesirable location for a commercial (trucking) driveway and commercial development. Evy will compose a letter to the Planning Board.
- Dudley/Carter, lot line adjustment. No comment.

Trails/Forests:

- Greg Senko of the Trails Subcommittee submitted the following report in writing. Notes for Conservation Commission meeting 11/4/21

ALL: After the last strong storm, the trees were cleared from Valley Lane. Acorn, Frye, Ahl/Noyes and Sargent were checked and are clear.

A side-by-side ATV is being loaned to the TSC by the KPD. It will be stored at Camp Lincoln this winter. The TSC would like approval to spend \$70 for a hitch accessory for the ATV so that we can tow a trailer to a work site. There is no hitch on the vehicle at this time and the bed size and capacity is limited.

Has the KCC heard whether the Scouts will build Leopold benches or kiosks for us? Should these items be included in a proposed budget for 2022 trails work? We have a new volunteer who is helping to design the graphics for the kiosks. We need at least two kiosks for Acorn and Sargent in 2022.

SARGENT: The new Sargent Road parking lot is mostly complete and looks fantastic. The Highway Department has done a great job on the entrance and parking lot. Gravel was laid down at the end of Sargent Road into the parking area, greatly improving the drive into the Sargent Property. Most of the parking lot was covered but the corners still need to be covered

with fresh gravel to be level with the rest of the lot. Cement blocks will be used to block ATVs from the trail instead of a gate.

The stumps have been cut down in the Sargent Lot. Rich will be invoicing for the materials brought in to surface the entrance and lot (about 80 yards so far). Rich will support cleanup of Briggs and Kinney lots with dump truck. The TSC would like approval to spend up to \$50 for posts to place No ATV signs at the edges of the powerline easement in Sargent.

The trail to ET's Landing has been marked and a map is available on the CC web page. Steven Pawlowski joined the work session to cut back the brush and place the markers.

A game cam has been placed in the parking lot and will be checked regularly.

A kiosk is needed in the parking area. It was proposed that a warrant article be started to make Sargent a town forest so that the forest fund could be applied here.

WKTF: Ernie and Rick removed the deck railing and window from WKTF. They observed that the stone wall has not been repaired and propose that the TSC rebuild the wall since so much time has passed since the neighbor was notified verbally to repair it. Should the wall be disturbed again after we rebuild it, a letter must be sent to the neighboring homeowner. Does the KCC agree that the wall will be rebuilt by the TSC?

ACORN:

The TSC recommends that at least 6 signs (1 at the circle, 2 at the Senter road, 1 at the trail to Ball Rd and 2 along the southern boundary) be purchased to indicate that the Acorn trails are closed during the timber harvest. It is recommended that custom signs be used to indicate the period for which the trails will be closed (until March 1, 2022).

It was also agreed to add here the paragraph regarding Acorn Forest from the recent Trails SC meeting minutes, as they should be in our minutes as well. Timber sale contract has been signed by the BOS and returned to Ron Klemarczyk. The logger, Bob Lee, is doing a harvest for Concord now, but we are next on his schedule. Ron k. Said he would not allow work to proceed if we have a warm, wet winter.

The Timber sale paperwork is with the BOS now.

Evy will write an article for the paper to inform the public, and see about signage, such as we posted during the Valley Lane harvest, when the harvest moves ahead.

Addition from Trails SC minutes:

Acorn Town Forest:

The timber harvest was put out for bid and C&C Chipping was selected to perform the harvest. A contract is being signed and timber cutting could begin as soon as November 1. According to the contract, it must be completed by March 1, 2021. Proceeds of the timber sale are estimated to be about \$16k. Signs are needed to indicate that the trails are closed during the timber harvest.

- Greg raised the idea of submitting a warrant article to make Sargent a Town Forest so we can use TF funds for trail work there. Evy discussed this once with Krista Helmboldt in 2018. Evy will find out when warrant articles must be submitted.
- There was a discussion of the stone wall incursion at West Kingston Town Forest, and the letter to Mr. Laidlaw of Oct. 2018 was reviewed. and a copy provided to Chief Briggs. Greg feels this issue should be addressed soon, and put forward three options. The CC voted on his second option with an addendum by Elizabeth that Chief Briggs hand carry a letter from the BOS.
- The abutter receives a KPD visit or letter from the Town reminding him of the previous request to repair the wall. He is also reminded of the attached statutes that make it illegal to alter the wall and that he could be forced to pay treble damages. The TSC repairs the wall and the abutter is invited but not required to assist.

PPNH:

- Putting Your Garden to Bed webinar went well. Marghi commented that Evy hosted seamlessly. A check for \$75 will be sent as an honorarium to Patty.
- The annual seed swap preparations are in full swing. The event will be held at the Rec building on Nov. 13, 9-1 A crowd is expected, including Walter Kittredge, formerly of the Harvard herbarium.
- Marghi will be in Mexico for the winter but will join PPNH and the CC for meetings via Zoom when she is available, and continue to write her monthly newsletter. There was a short discussion of meeting via Zoom, Chief Briggs said it's OK to have members who cannot be there in person to attend on Zoom, but that the meeting still needs to be physically held in a public place, and announced.
- Winter programs are being considered, and we are hoping to revive the seed library idea next March.
- Evy attended a climate resilience composium online presented by Native Plant Trust, but found it too technical.

Ongoing:

- Beaver pipes for Rte. 107 Town Forest were again discussed, Evy would like to revisit this idea, as we believe we can get a matching grant of up to \$750. Chief Briggs provided a contact for DOT, as the culvert is not in the town forest per se, but within a state highway easement. 603-862-1133, Schutt
- Brief discussion of steep slope ordinance, no one knew of one here. Evy will investigate.
- The oil tanks dumped at Frye Road were removed by Ken Cabral of Ken's auto. Thank you, Ken.
- Evy wondered whether geocaching would be fun for the community at Valley Lane. Melissa said she had asked the BOS some years ago and was told no. Perhaps if this was done as a recreation department-coordinated activity the answer might be different. A project to consider next year.
- Elizabeth spoke to us on the "Let's Get Pumped" program, (she learned of it at ESRLAC) and showed us flyers. She suggested that the flyers be included each year with tax bills.

The committee all agreed it was a good idea, and Evy suggested that it could count toward our MS4 permit. To be investigated.

- Greg sent an email about CPLA:

For CPLA, I have one item to report. CPLA has been selected for a Watershed Assistance Grant in 2022. Our application was ranked #2 out of 14 applications! Only 7 requests could be approved due to limited funding. The grant was approved on the basis of a “preproposal” . A full application detailing the project plans and costs must be submitted by Jan 14, 2022. CPLA will be working with the towns in the next two months to provide the full application.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM
Next meeting December 9, KPL

Respectfully submitted
acting for Secretary Linda Foss,
Evy Nathan
(notes taken by Marghi Bean)