

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

8/5/2021

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm at the Kingston Community Library

Present: Evy Nathan, Shaw Tilton, Greg Senko, Marghi Bean, Geof Harris

Excused absence: Elizabeth Mello, Linda Foss, Bob Smith, Melissa Butler

Guests: Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy, Duane Hyde, Ernie Landry

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 7/8/21 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor

Treasurer's Report:

Numbers have not changed much.

Expenditures:

Shaw paid Greg (for bridge construction supplies) \$132.78 from the Conservation Fund, and had also already written him a check for receipts for \$454.55. These expenditures had been previously approved by the Commission.

Budget proposal due at the end of August: Shaw suggested a line for trail work. The CC needs to consider the amount.

Guest:

Duane Hyde, Land Conservation Director for SELT, was present to bring us up to date on the progress of the purchase of the mitigation tract (Alessio – 125 warehouse project) which will become an addition to the Valley Lane Town Forest. Eric Mitchell is now doing the boundary survey. Mr. Hyde requested that we vote in favor of the proposed project structure and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to accept the property.

The history of the proposed mitigation was discussed. Evy moved to recommend that the town accept the proposal, Marghi seconded, all were in favor.

Correspondence:

RCCD newsletter

UNH, Bioblitz email. Training will be on Aug. 10 and 12

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

- Smallpox Road excavation: owner now states on the plan that he purchased the lot in order to excavate and then build a dwelling. There is no proposed dwelling shown on the plan, only a gravel access road. CC wonders what happened to the trout pond earlier proposed. Evy needs to review NHB report.
- Colby Road, proposed addition: CC has no issues.
- Site walk: August 28 8:00 Diamond Oaks
- Manuel incursions: Steve Walker has been communicating with Greg Senko and would like to see the issues at the Fidler residence resolved.

Trails Subcommittee:

Valley Lane:

- 2 bridges at Valley Lane have been re-decked. The third is on the far end of the red trail and is too far away to cart in the wood. Evy will contact the Boy Scouts to see if they can help carry in wood. The abutter's woods trail to the red trail was discussed as a possible alternate entry site.
- *The Commission and Trails Committee would like to thank the Kingston Highway Dept. for allowing use of dumpsters for wood debris from old bridges!*

West Kingston Town Forest:

- During the annual monitoring, Greg and Megan Woods of SELT found signs of ATV use near the stone wall where the abutter had removed rocks in the past. Evy will look at past minutes to see what documented discussions with the abutter we have had, for future discussions regarding incursions.
- Acorn, West, Back Road and Dorre: were all monitored, and are all in good shape. Megan complimented the town's "hands on" stewardship of town forests.
 - Evy noted that there are a few spots at West and Acorn that need additional signage and directional explanations.
 - It was mentioned that perhaps non-town owned trails should be included on our web page. The CC will consider this.
 - Two ATV'ers were captured on the tail cam near the Acorn trailhead.
 - Nothing is known about the cellar hole at the West Kingston trailhead.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

- The presentation to New Hampton Garden Club went well.
- The nature walk with Camp Kent also went well.
- PPNH will be part of the CC's booth at Kingston Days.
- PPNH to present to Plaistow Garden Club on August 18

- Kingston wildflower walk August 25
- Library garden tour Sept. 15
- Library is trying to purchase an old card file for a permanent seed bank.
- A new monarch waystation will be added at Bakie Farm

Ongoing:

- Help is needed at the booth at Kingston Days. Geof Harris volunteered.
- NH BioBlitz: UNH Extension is BioBlitz training will be Aug. 10 and 12 at noon online. The purpose is to partner with New Hampshire communities to document as many species as possible on town-owned lands throughout the state.
- NHACC 50th Anniversary Celebration: This year's anniversary celebration will be held at Bear Brook State Park on September 11, 9:30-1:30. This is a good opportunity to network.
- Brochure rack: The rack in the town hall is in place with info and maps displayed.
- Website trail and map information: Susan knows we need to work on our web page. She has been busy, but promised to get to it soon.

Old Business:

- Manuel/Sargent projects. Greg and Evy met with several members of the BOS and Rich St. Hilaire on August 4 for site walks at Manuel boat ramp site, Sargent, ET's Landing, and Marghi and Evy at Tucker Road.
- At Manuel several abutters expressed concerns and objections. Parking, trash, motored boats, possible damage to their properties, liability, etc., were brought up. The BOS seemed to agree with the Commission that there should be access to the lake, as the property is town-owned and therefore should be accessible, but said they would consider the abutters' objections.
- At Sargent and ET's Landing the BOS and Mr. St Hilaire all agreed with the CC's proposal, citing the poor access at 55/57 New Boston Road.
- At Tucker Road the BOS seemed to be in agreement that the Beans should have access to the property (their own) where the proposed new home will be built. The status of the class of the road (5 or 6) will be discussed at the next BOS meeting.

Other:

Acorn Timber Harvest. Ron Klemarczyk is fighting fires out west

DES Country Pond retaining wall complaint: Greg asked about the status of this complaint, which originated in July 2020 and required a restoration plan in January 2021. DES granted an extension, but there seems to be no movement from the applicant.

Beaver pipes at Rte. 107: Shaw made some preliminary contacts regarding a grant, from F&G and is still waiting for a reply.

CPLA:

- Greg noted that 2 kinds of naiad are now present in the lake.
- CPLA is preparing to apply for a Watershed Assistance Grant from NHDES. The grant, if we get funded, will be used for implementing stormwater runoff remediation projects. The Newton Town Boat Ramp and a section of Concannon Road along with three other sites are identified in the Country Pond Watershed Management Plan (now published on the CPLA website) as contributing significant phosphorus loading to Country Pond. Conceptual project designs for these five sites were included in the report. Working with the Newton and Kingston Road Agents, these two sites were selected as having the highest value for reducing phosphorus loading at a reasonable cost and with a high likelihood of approval from the town governments. CPLA has received support letters from Newton for the grant application and is now working on support letters and landowner permissions for the Kingston project. The preliminary application is due in September and a funding decision will be made by DES soon after.
- Target shooting: Evy found a senate resolution online regarding target ranges in NH, and suggested that perhaps Kingston ought to have a shooting range ordinance on the books. Will discuss when Chef Briggs is present at a meeting.
- Marghi noticed a pile of stone possibly too near the vernal pool at Bresnahan storage area. CC should check it out.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm

Next meeting, September 9, 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marghi Bean

acting on behalf of Linda Foss