

Minutes: Kingston Conservation Commission

9/6/18

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, John Ricker, Greg Senko, Linda Foss

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Ben Giles, James Merritt – Eagle Scout candidates

Amanda Prophet, Beth Ann Scanlon - prospective members

Charlie Zilch – Saddle Up Saloon, 4 Main St.

Edward Dudek, James Dagle – 4 Main St.

Steve Sheckells – Tree cutting

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted with a note that the date of the Seacoast Science Center should be corrected to read Saturday, September 15.

Treasurer's Report:

Evy reported that she and Jane Ramey, town treasurer, met with a bank representative at TD Bank and were given federal paperwork to fill out for the Commission's two accounts. The Commission voted to approve changing the signer name on the two accounts from Jeff Sluder to John Ricker, and to add Evy as a second signatory. Evy made the motion, Marghi seconded, all were in favor.

The 2019 budget has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

Evy reported that she has purchased the KCC letterhead paper and Trail Passports. A motion was made and seconded to purchase two brown trailhead signs with a white border from Hampstead Print & Copy.

Correspondence:

Evy reported a broken dock floating in Bayberry Pond to DES Shoreland Protection. They replied stating that while the broken dock is not a violation, they will send a letter to the homeowner.

Country Pond Lake Association submitted a letter requesting funds for lake water testing in 2019.

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions sent an email reminder that their annual meeting is Saturday, November 3. The email included the meeting schedule, a description of the sessions, and a reminder that early registration starts Monday, September 10.

Christian Martin, a Senior Biologist with the NH Audubon Society, sent a note stating that bald eagles are no longer on the state list of threatened or endangered species thanks to conservation efforts.

Evy received a reminder from the New Hampshire Tree Farm Program stating that tree farm inspections, which are done every six years, are due in 2019. Evy noted that while there are six designated tree farms in Kingston only one is marked as such.

New Members:

Beth Ann Scanlon and Amanda Prophet attended as potential Conservation Commission members and introduced themselves.

Eagle Scout Candidates: James Merritt submitted a permit application for his project to build bog bridges in the Frye Blue Trail. Evy said that she would set a time to walk the trail with James to confirm the bridge locations. Ben Giles proposed restoring a nature viewing platform in a wetlands area near the Granite Fields golf course. Ben will revise his permit application as he cannot use cement footings within a wetlands area and will need to change his design.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

Saddle Up Saloon Update: Charlie Zilch reported that following Saddle Up's latest meeting with the Planning Board they have agreed to make some improvements to address stormwater runoff issues. Saddle Up is required to offset the impervious pavers installed in the outdoor seating area by providing an equivalent area of pervious surface elsewhere on the property. Additionally, they have volunteered to address the stormwater runoff from the "Event" parking lot, to re-plant some vegetation along the pond embankment and to find a more effective solution to manage roof runoff. With Charlie's input the owners will develop some plans and present them to the Planning Board in October. Once the Planning Board has approved the changes, Saddle Up will try to have the proposed changes completed before next summer.

4 Main Street Change of Use: Charlie Zilch introduced James Dagle of Dagle Electrical Construction Corp., an electrical contracting company based in Wilmington, MA. Dagle intends to purchase the 4 Main St. property to store and maintain some of his company's fleet of 50-60 vehicles. Charlie explained that a change of use variance would be required as the site had previously received a zoning board variance for use as an automotive junkyard. The current owner, Ed Dudek, said that he would like to sell the property as he felt the Town was not enthusiastic about the property's continued use as a junkyard although that use is currently grandfathered. Charlie pointed out that changing the use to an automotive depot will greatly reduce the environmental impact both to the site itself and the pond at the back of the property. James Dagle stated that no fuel would be stored on site, no oil changes would be performed and that vehicles would not be washed there on a regular basis.

Kingston Rec Playing field: Paul Butler wants to propose a playing field for the former YMCA property on the corner of Main St. and Wilders Grove Road. There are a number of white pines on the property that will need to be removed. Evy said that she would support Paul's proposal to the Board of Selectmen if he agreed to keep a buffer of hardwood trees at the edge of the

property and if the site complied with Shoreland Protection requirements as a large portion of the property falls within the 200' buffer zone. Paul said that he does intend to repair the two cabins on the property, and Evy suggested that he angle the new roofs to eliminate runoff towards Great Pond.

Tree Cutting:

Steve Sheckells of Scotland Road reported that Unitil was planning to cut down numerous mature trees, both on his street and on Main Street in the Historic District. His concerns were that Unitil was providing very short notice to homeowners and that many homeowners are not aware that they have the final say on whether trees on their property are cut. He was also concerned about the chemical growth retardant that Unitil uses on trees that have been pruned. Evy referenced the Historic District town ordinance which includes "factors affecting the streetscape" to be within the Historic District Commission's scope. Marghi suggested that the Conservation Commission and Historic District Commission work as a team on this issue and Evy said she had already contacted Virginia Morse. Beth Ann suggested drafting a letter to the editor to let homeowners know that they do not have to comply with Unitil. Evy expressed the need for an educational resource so that homeowners could independently judge whether a tree should be taken down.

Archaeology Site Report:

On Friday, August 31 Evy, Walt and Jeff met Tanya Krajcik at Frye Farm to map the cellarhole. They located a number of artifacts, including the cellar steps and well. The area was sketched and Jeff took photos. Evy suggested that the results of this work could eventually be used as a learning tool, and that the Commission could install signs describing the site and its history.

Country Pond Cartop Boat Launch:

Greg Senko reported that there was a piece of town-owned property on Green Road that would provide ideal access for kayaks or paddleboards with parking for several cars. Evy noted the need to check if there is a power utility easement on the property.

Signs/Trails/Forests:

Evy noted that there were new patches of poison ivy at the entrance to Valley Lane that would eventually need to be dealt with.

Evy reported that the duplex at the entrance to ET's Landing is for sale and currently under contract, and that we should speak to the new owners about improving access. Evy spoke with the realtor, who assured her that the prospective new owners are aware of the easement.

Walt reported that the SELT Trail Fest 5K is being held September 22.

Evy, Greg and Linda hiked a portion of the Trabucco property and reported that it is an ideal conservation prospect. The site has a pond and wetlands, established trails, meadows and forested areas with a variety of trees and wildlife.