

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission

12/3/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:52 pm via Zoom

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith, Greg Senko

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

Linda reported two spelling errors and Shaw reported a bank balance error in the November 5 minutes. The correct balance for the Conservation Fund should have been \$10,445.42.

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as corrected. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Greg, all in favor.

Several people responded to Evy's Facebook request for hanging file folder donations, and they have been used to reorganize the Conservation Commission file cabinet.

Treasurer's Report:

2020 remaining budget balance: \$2,251.29 (\$16,251.29 including milfoil treatment)

Conservation Fund: \$10,446.70

Forest Fund: \$5,229.27

Milfoil remediation: Shaw had a follow up meeting with the Budget Committee responding to their request for more information on the milfoil remediation line item. The unused funds from the 2019 warrant article will be used to fund this year's milfoil remediation. The unused funds from 2020 will be rolled over into 2021, and the 2021 budget line item will be reduced to \$5,000.

NHACC invoice for Shaw: Evy suggests we withhold payment, as this invoice was issued in error according to Cindy. She will follow up.

ATV training receipts: Greg will collect the receipts and certificates and submit them to Cindy Kenerson for payment charged to Seminars and Training.

Bob had receipts totaling \$22.96 for materials purchased to cover the turtle crossing signs. He will request a petty cash reimbursement, to be charged to Supplies.

Jeff asked if the Budget Committee will deposit the unused 2020 budget funds in the Conservation Fund as they have done in the past. Shaw will follow up with Cindy Kenerson.

Correspondence:

NHACC: Thank you note from Barbara Richter to Evy and Marghi for presenting their Pollinator Pathways workshop at the NHACC Annual Meeting.

Supply Lines: NHDES drinking and groundwater newsletter. New PFAS director was named.

The Watchtower: mail campaign to local government officials.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

- 21 Highland Rd. Illegal dredge and fill. NH DES inspected the site and determined that the property owner has built a retaining wall lakeward of the existing wall and has filled in behind it without a permit. DES sent a letter requiring immediate erosion and sediment control within the work area and requiring that the owner provide DES with a complete restoration and stabilization plan by a licensed surveyor by January 3.
- 266 Route 125 (Amazon warehouse). There is a December 5 site walk. Evy and Marghi met with Andrea Kenter to discuss her letter to the Planning Board regarding the property lines and right of way, especially for the Rte. 107 entrance, as shown on the Dubai Group's site plans. Evy checked with Dennis Quintal, who commented that the Dubai Group's measurements are correct. Evy commented that the Conservation Commission will continue to monitor this project to ensure to the best of our ability that the project will encroach as little as possible on wetlands or the Little River shoreland buffer, as per appropriate town ordinances.
- Torromeo Industries. Residents on Jericho Drive met with the Select Board to complain about land clearing and blasting. They reported that Torromeo has cleared trees, which were providing a sound buffer, to their property lines, and that blasting was taking place within 50' of their property line. The CC only saw an Intent to Cut for 5 acres, but a resident reported that 20 acres or more have been cleared. Evy checked with Mr. Wilson of the BOS, who responded that a second Intent had been filed. Residents complain that blasting is disruptive and causes minor property damage. The Select Board maintains that Torromeo is within his rights, and is adhering to Mines (AoT) Bureau regulations. Evy contacted Eben Lewis of NH DES to confirm that Mr. Torromeo is complying with the 2009 restoration plans for remediation for pollution to Little River. Mr. Lewis said he did not recall having received monitoring reports from Mr. Torromeo in 3 years, and would follow up. There is also a question as to whether new or revised Alteration of Terrain permits are needed for an enlarged mining area.
- Saddle Up Saloon The last PB meeting and department comments were discussed. PB asked for an updated plan of the whole property to accurately portray existing conditions. Snow storage, impervious areas, and pond aerators without proper permits, were discussed. The question over who "owns" parts of the pond according old deeds was brought up. Evy will check with shoreland protection at DES regarding ownership vs. regulations.

Forest Management Plans for Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests:

Evy asked for input on the Forest Management Plan drafts submitted by Ron Klemarczyk. The total estimated net value of a timber harvest in Acorn is \$14,050 after fees, expenses, and parking lot construction. The total estimated net value of a timber harvest in West Kingston is \$1,400 after fees and expenses. These profits would all go into the Forest Fund.

Greg noted that two small lots bordering Rockrimmon Road (Map R24, Lots 14C and 14G) are included in West Kingston Town Forest but are not included in the proposal. While the timber value of these two lots is negligible, Greg thought they should be mentioned to ensure that the plan encompasses the entire property. Evy questioned whether the "ancient trees" would be exempt from a harvest. Questions will be sent to Mr. Klemarczyk.

Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:

- NHACC workshop was successful and had positive feedback.
- Marghi is working on the December newsletter.
- A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for December 11.
- Epping and Sandown have both posted photos of their pollinator gardens.
- South Hampton joined the partnership as the 14th town.

Trails Subcommittee:

Safety Training

Greg, Bob, Geof, Brad and Melissa are taking the online course to obtain ATV safety certificates. Greg requested approval for Trails Subcommittee members to take a \$25 online chainsaw safety training course. Evy made a motion to approve \$100 for training, seconded by Shaw, all in favor.

Game Cameras

Greg proposed that the Conservation Commission purchase several more game cameras to provide more coverage in areas where there have been persistent problems with trash dumping and ATV incursions. The estimated cost for a camera, box and mounting kit is \$120. This will be reconsidered next spring.

Valley Lane Town Forest

Markers have been replaced on all trails and the bridge with the rotted board has been repaired. The Trails Subcommittee will inspect all bridges and will repair them in the spring.

Frye Town Forest

Walt and Greg removed the refrigerator and stove, and Ernie took them away for disposal in his trailer. There is a pile of broken pallet pieces that still need to be removed. Evy received a

complaint that dirt bikers were using the trails and not yielding to hikers. Greg noted that the ATVs could be entering from an abutting property, and that an ATV can easily drive around the entrance gate. NH Fish and Game officers were notified, said they would monitor the area on weekend if possible.

Acorn Town Forest

Greg and Peter graded the approach to the third bridge.

West Kingston Town Forest

Greg noted that there are no boundary (tree) blazes in this forest. Evy will find out whether surveyors or foresters are authorized to blaze boundaries. She will also ask if green posts would be an acceptable alternative. Additional markers have been placed on the White Trail.

North Kingston (Back Road) Town Forest

Evy requested that existing blazes be re-painted within next few months.

ET's Landing/Sargent

Evy received an email from Steve and Linda Pawlowski, who have been picking up trash for the past several months in and around ET's Landing, the Sargent property, and the Fairgrounds. They have collected 8 – 10 bags of trash in the past several months. They expressed an interest in continuing this work and are interested in removing trash from the Briggs property, as well. The targets on the NC property have been removed. Evy again requested trail markers for ET's Landing.

Trail Maps

Evy suggested creating uniform maps for all town forests. She suggested Neatline, which produces maps for SELT at a cost of approximately \$180 each. There was general agreement.

LCIP Monitoring:

Monitoring reports have been completed and sent to the Office of Energy and Planning (Steve Walker), delivered to the BOS office, and have been added to CC files. Great job was done by all!

- Bake: Evy will draft a letter to the Bake property abutter concerning the dumping of wood scrap.
- Manuel: Linda and Greg raised some concerns regarding the status of Green Road and Lake Road. After reviewing the original LCIP property maps and easement documents it is clear that Green Road up to the Murphy property line, and Lake Road up to the Fidler/Rogers property line, lie within the bounds of the Manuel property, with Green Road and Lake Road residents holding rights of way to use the road. While these roads are owned by the Town of Kingston, they are listed on the town road inventory as "private" and have been maintained by the town only to the beginning of Lake Road.

The Conservation Commission will draft a letter to the property owners stating that the “no trespassing” and “private property” signs on Lake Road are illegal because LCIP mandates that their conservation properties provide foot access for hunting and fishing. The letter will require owners to remove the signs.

Regarding the proposal to allow car top boat access to Country Pond via Green Road, it appears that property owner permission is not required, but a commitment would be needed from the town to maintain the road. Greg will contact Chief Briggs and Rich St. Hilaire to discuss road maintenance and safety considerations.

New Business:

MS4 Meeting: There is an MS4 meeting scheduled for December 7 at 2pm. Greg will attend the meeting. He will also invite Sally Soule of NH DES and Julie LaBranche of RPC to discuss the projects recommended in the Country Pond Watershed Management Plan.

Youth Member: Evy will contact the high school to ask if there is a student who may have an interest in becoming a youth member of the Conservation Commission.

Frye Road Trash: The Boy Scouts will remove the trash on Frye Road near the Old Coach Road entrance. on Dec. 5th

Frye Cellar Hole Mapping: Ernie Landry suggested that the Heritage Commission might help complete the cellar hole mapping project. Evy left all the info in their box. We would like to complete this project in 2021

Old Business/Action Items:

Projects to be completed:

- Briggs property clean-up
- Frye incursion (Gelina): access to south side of Frye
- Re-do tree/shrub signs at Valley Lane

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next meeting Thursday, January 3, 6:45pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary

**see action items below*

Action items:

Don, Greg and Rich St. Hilaire to meeting regarding status of Lake and Green Roads.

Letter to abutter re: wood scrap on Bake property

Question for Rich St. Hilaire – who is authorized to replace surveyor poles with stakes (Manuel property)

Research Saddle Up deed to understand shoreland access rights, contact shoreland bureau

Thank you letter to Pawlowskis and Boy Scouts when they have completed cleanup

Ask Ron Klemarczyk who does paints the property boundary blazes.

Forest Mgt plan review:

Acorn Comments – error on history of Acorn, confirm that Area 5 will remain a natural area.

West Kingston comments - request to mention the 2 small parcels in the West Kingston report.