

Draft Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission

6/9/2022

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Geof Harris, Bob Smith, Elizabeth Mello, Greg Senko, Phil Coombs (Select Board Ex Officio)

Excused Absence: Melissa Butler

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 5/5/2022 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw provided a budget summary:

Conservation Fund: \$28,919.64
(Working Balance \$9,919.64, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$19,000.00)
Forest Fund: \$ 17,241.37

Bob will submit a receipt for grass seed for the Acorn parking lot.

Evy submitted receipts for \$25.13 for printing and poster supplies to be paid from Public Education.

Powwow Pond Council submitted an invoice for \$724 to be paid from the Aquatic Invasives (Milfoil) fund For DASH divers to remove a small amount of milfoil.

Correspondence:

- SELT sent an invitation to the grand opening of their center at Burley Farms in Epping on June 11.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

There were no plans to review at the time of the meeting.

- Mayhew/Newman Intent to Cut: This intent to cut, which was approved by the Select Board, was of interest to the Conservation Commission as it is on an LCIP property where the town holds the conservation easement and there had been problems with a previous timber harvest. Mr. Coombs said that he visited the property to discuss the timber cut with the owner and

that it appeared to be well managed. He added that the problems with the previous harvest were due to the actions of the logger and that a different logger was used this time.

New Business:

- ATV Incursions: Evy and Greg met with acting Police Chief Joel Johnson to discuss ongoing ATV incursions in Acorn Town Forest. Chief Johnson said that while the police department could speak to the individual involved, they could not issue an arrest warrant or fine. He suggested reporting the activity to NH F&G. Mr. Coombs offered to contact Richard Crouse of NH F&G if the Conservation Commission could put together a log of incursion activities to accompany the game camera photos. He said that it was widely known that Kingston had already been featured on North Woods Law for illegal use of ATVs on private property without landowner permission, and that getting NH F&G involved may be the most effective deterrent.

There is also a wetlands violation in Acorn where a stream bed has been filled with rock and a culvert installed. NHDES has been contacted but they have not yet taken action.

Trails Committee:

- Valley Lane: Trail work in preparation for the National Trails Day hike was completed. In addition to bridge work, a reroute around a wet area was done on the Red trail and the temporary trail information signs were removed. There were about 25-30 participants in the hike. Geof led the hike, Evy provided information on flora and fauna, and Ernie Landry spoke about the property's history and SELT's role as conservation easement holder.

Evy and Greg both pointed out that the town forest map at the kiosk is out of date. Greg will try to contact the individual at RPC who helped the Exeter Conservation Commission with their maps. It was also noted that this town forest is referred to by three different names: Hunt Road Town Forest in the original documents; South Kingston Town Forest in the forest management plan; and Valley Lane in most communication and correspondence.

- Acorn: The Highway Department installed the gate, filled in the low spots in the parking area and improved access from the street. Greg added more trail markers as Evy had requested.
- Frye: The planned bog bridge and benches will be addressed after the Manuel cartop boat launch project is completed.
- Sargent/ET's Landing: The Highway Department installed the gate and expanded and graded the parking area. Greg said that the last time he checked ATV incursions were only coming from the power company easement, and although that is not allowed without written landowner permission it is nearly impossible to control. He said that there is evidence of incursions near ET's Landing and suggested that Trails look at ways of restricting access to that area. Evy commented that Busch Farm in Newton provides ATV access on marked trails and said that it would be helpful if Kingston could provide a property with similar ATV access.

Evy contacted Krista Helmboldt who suggested that Eversource was not responsible for invasives in the easement.

Evy said that she can get a crew together from Charles River Laboratories to clean up brush at ET's landing.

Evy commented on the overflow of white goods at John's Auto Salvage. The free drop-off program has been very successful, but it has been difficult for the owner to schedule dumpster pickups.

- Manuel: Greg submitted suggestions for cartop launch signage to Evy so that she could purchase them.
- Library Trail: Evy said that Library Director Melissa Mannon would like to explore a way to connect the Library Trail with Tucker and French Family Forest. Greg explained that it would require landowner permission to create a public trail on several private lots and there would also need to be a way to get around several wetland areas as well as the King's Landing development.

Pollinator Pathways Committee:

- The Kensington Elementary School presentation was a huge success. As a follow up activity, the students created the "Pollinator Police" to promote pollinator-friendly activities at school.
- Two newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting.
- Five people helped with the Valley Lane cleanup.
- PP has scheduled the following activities:
 - PP committee meeting on June 14.
 - Presentation to the Pelham Conservation Commission on June 16.
 - A Pollinator Kit raffle is planned for Pollinator Week
 - A table for the Newmarket Garden Club tour on June 19 and June 25.
 - A table at Kingston Days on August 6.
 - Presentation to the Monadnock Garden Club on September 21.
 - Workshop with Newmarket Conservation Commission on October 15.

KLA Aquifer Protection Zone Signs:

Evy reported that a design has been chosen for the signs, however they cannot be posted on state highways. Where the signs will go will need to be re-thought, perhaps with the help of Mr. St. Hilaire.

CPLA news:

Greg explained the recent activity and communications concerning a proposed herbicide treatment in Country Pond. Last fall spiny naiad, an invasive aquatic plant, was detected in Country Pond and reported to NH DES by CPLA. DES did a survey of the lake and produced a map showing a number of areas around the lake where the invasive was present.

In March DES presented CPLA with a long-term management plan which specified treating the spiny naiad with herbicide. DES pays 100% of first year costs for invasive treatment to lake associations who request assistance. CPLA distributed the plan to Country Pond stakeholders, requested input, and organized a public information meeting with DES. At the meeting DES said that they would offer hand harvesting/diver-assisted suction (DASH) as an alternative.

Following the meeting CPLA did a stakeholder survey which resulted in hand harvesting as the preferred treatment. DES will perform another survey of Country Pond in July, when the spiny naiad begins to grow. If spiny naiad is once again detected, DES will proceed with removal services. DES will subsidize 25 – 40% of future invasive treatments, with the remaining cost to be covered by the lake association, grants, or towns.

Greg also acknowledged that there have been a number of false claims made about CPLA's motives and the consequences of herbicide treatment.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Invasives at Sargent (in easement), ROW Eversource
- Consideration of a historical marker at ET's Landing for Indigenous People's Day
- Granit update
- Improved trails intersection signage
- Beaver pipes 107

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting Thursday, July 7, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary