

Minutes  
**Kingston Conservation Commission**  
4/7/2022

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 (via Zoom), Phil Coombs, Select Board Ex Officio

Excused Absence: Melissa Butler

Guests: Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the 3/3/2022 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Shaw presented the current bank account balances:

Conservation Fund: \$28,913.84  
(Working Balance \$9,913.84, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$19,000.00)

Forest Fund: \$ 11,105.56 (includes \$5,868.27 from Acorn timber sale)

- A second check had just arrived from Foreco for approximately \$6,000, bringing the total proceeds from the timber sale to just under \$12,000.
- Phil Coombs advised that the Commission write a warrant article to create a revolving fund to make Forest Fund money available for projects in coming years.

**Election of Officers:**

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Evy Nathan - Chair, Marghi Bean – Vice Chair, Linda Foss – Secretary, Shaw Tilton – Treasurer.

**By-laws review and discussion:**

Several members had comments on the by-laws, which are to be renamed “Operational Guidelines” per advice of the NHACC. The document will be revised to reflect these comments and presented for approval at the May meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

- SELT newsletter
- DES letter to the owner of 21 Highland Road regarding required remediation of a non-permitted retaining wall extension.
- Evy received a call from a resident of 9<sup>th</sup> St. to report a neighbor excavating a road on her property with neither permission nor a permit to gain access to the Powwow River. The police were contacted.

### **Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:**

#### Hawk's Ridge – Bent Grass Circle:

No comment – lot line adjustment.

#### 8 South Road:

Plans for ADU over existing garage – no comment.

#### Charm Sciences – Diamond Oak:

Plan to change use of existing building. No comment as there are no wetlands or other sensitive issues.

#### 44 Tucker Road:

No comment – lot line adjustment.

### **Trails Committee:**

- The Trails Committee held a meeting on March 30 to set priorities for 2022.
- Valley Lane: The first priority will be to make Valley Lane ready for SELT's featured hike on National Trails Day in June. There are two bridges that need to be re-decked and two bridges that were washed off their foundations last winter that need to be stabilized. Greg reported that the materials cost for this project would be approximately \$700. MM&S to approve the expenditure. Permanent trail intersection signs are also needed at Valley Lane. Geof volunteered to try making a sample sign with a wood router as one alternative. Evy said that the pollinator garden at the entrance needed weeding and that she would try to find volunteers.
- Acorn: Greg ordered the gate and is waiting for delivery. A work session will be held to open the parking area, re-mark trails following the timber harvest and to re-evaluate the trail system.
- Sargent: Greg ordered that gate and is waiting for delivery. A work session will be scheduled to complete the parking area and evaluate options for the wet area.
- Manuel: The car top boat launch site needs to be cleaned up, and signs need to be ordered and installed.

- Alessio property: Rick Russman reported that the purchase is still pending a boundary survey, and that SELT was also trying to purchase a 10-acre parcel that is encircled by the Alessio property. The completion of these two purchases will make a significant addition to Valley Lane Town Forest with the possibility of connecting to Plaistow Town Forest trails in the future, which would create a more extensive network of trails.
- Linda distributed a draft of the planned trails brochure and will email it to members for further comment.

### **Pollinator Pathways Committee:**

- The NH Butterfly Survey Zoom with Heidi Holman of NH F&G is on April 8 at 5:30 pm.
- The Atkinson ConCom seed giveaway is April 9 at Freshwater Farms. PP will have a table there from 11am – 3pm.
- Kevin Talbot will lead a spring ephemeral walk in Epping on April 23 at 10am, rain date April 24.
- MM&S to renew the Zoom account subscription.
- Marghi and Evy will be presenting to the Newmarket and Lee Conservation Commissions on April 14.
- NHF&G has provided a schoolyard habitat grant for a pollinator meadow at the high school. PPNH will be supplying seeds through DOT for the project.
- The Seed Library at the Kingston Community Library will be opening in May.

### **Country Pond Invasives Treatment Plan:**

- Greg reported that Spiny Naiad, an invasive species, was detected in Country Pond in 2021. NH DES surveyed the lake last fall and provided a remediation plan to CPLA. CPLA is seeking input from stakeholders including the Kingston and Newton Conservation Commissions.

### **Old Business/Bucket List:**

- Invasives at Sargent. Evy will contact RCCD to evaluate the knotweed.
- Car top boat launch. Work to be scheduled for this spring/summer.
- Stone wall Laidlaw, Geof repaired some of the damage and installed a trail cam. He reported that some incursions continue.
- Eversource ROW at Sargent.
- Consideration of a historical marker at ET's Landing for Indigenous People's Day.
- Granit update.
- Yard waste dumping sign at Manuel.

- Sargent access to ET's Landing.
- Improved trails intersection signage. It was suggested that Geof could create some signage.
- Beaver pipes 107.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Next meeting Thursday, May 5, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Foss, Secretary*