

Minutes  
**Kingston Conservation Commission**  
12/9/2021

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Greg Senko (remote), Bob Smith, Geof Harris, Elizabeth Mello, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Excused Absence: Marghi Bean

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the 11/4/21 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Shaw presented the current bank account balances:

Conservation Fund: \$22,987.29, working balance \$8,987.29

Forest Fund:           \$ 5,235.43

- The Highway Department submitted an invoice to the CC for \$670 to cover the cost of materials used in the Sargent parking lot.
- Greg was reimbursed \$24.78 for lumber to build trailer ramps to transport the UTV which is on loan from the Police Department.
- Evy requested that Greg send an email invoice from CPLA for annual dues.

**Correspondence:**

- State Forest Nursery catalog
- SELT newsletter
- ESRLAC Annual Report
- Nature Conservancy holiday card

**LCIP Monitoring:**

All monitoring reports have been completed and submitted. Evy reported that yard waste is still being dumped on the Manuel property on Lake Road.

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

Granite Field commercial condos revised plans. While the new plans are an improvement over the previous ones, there are still issues with the project's proximity to an already vulnerable wetland. Comment:

While the latest set of plans reviewed at our December 9 meeting do reduce the impact to the wetland buffer, any incursion into the buffer zone, whether permanent or temporary due to construction, is not acceptable to the Conservation Commission, particularly where an already compromised river and a steep slope are factors.

The Conservation Commission still supports the statement made by Michael Cuomo of RCCD in his October 18 letter that "... wetland buffer clearing and earth moving ...activities significantly diminish the wetland buffer and reduce its effectiveness. I encourage the Planning Board to consider if these features can still be moved out of the wetland buffer."

In our meeting, Chief Briggs pointed out that it would be possible to avoid impacting the wetland buffer altogether if the building site was moved uphill or sideways, taking up some of the space that is now a large parking lot. The Conservation Commission would like to know if the developer had considered this, and whether it is necessary to keep the entire existing parking lot for the current purpose.

Should the Planning Board decide to issue a conditional use permit for this project, the Conservation Commission would expect that the comments made by town engineer Dennis Quintal in his December 10 letter be addressed prior to approval. The Conservation Commission feels that it is essential that a detailed performance bond be required for this project, as the town is still addressing ongoing problems caused by poor design and maintenance of past projects by this developer.

West Kingston Town Forest Incursion: Chief Briggs contacted the owner to inform them that legal action would ensue if the rock wall were not rebuilt. The owner later reported that the work had been done; however, Geof visited the site and found that the restoration work was only partially complete.

10 King Pine Way: Comment: Lot line adjustment, no wetlands. No comment.

### **Trails Subcommittee:**

- Briggs Property: Greg and Geof used the UTV to clear a large amount of metal goods trash from the Briggs Property. The trash was left in the bins provided by John's Auto Salvage for disposal.
- Acorn: Evy commented that more trail markers are needed. Trail marking will be re-assessed after the timber harvest is completed. Greg said that more markers will need to be purchased.

- Sargent: Greg left a message for the Eversource contact recommended by Evy but has not heard back from them yet. Greg spoke with the owner of the property abutting the access gate on New Boston Road and reported that she complained there has been a lot of ATV traffic. He suggested putting on another lock and setting up a game camera at the gate. Evy suggested posting signs. Chief Briggs suggested that the CC send a thank you note to John's Auto Salvage for their metal/white goods public dumpster and cooperation in improving access to Sargent.
- Kinney Property: Chief Briggs reported that a warrant article is being written to propose the Town's purchase of this property in 2022. This property would be a valuable addition to the Sargent Property/ET's Landing conservation area.

#### **Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:**

- The Annual Seed Swap at the Rec Center was very successful.
- The December newsletter has been published and emailed.
- PPNH will use the winter months to plan next year's activities.

#### **New Business:**

- Frye Archaeology. Site forms have been completed and submitted to the state for registration. Evy said that the Valley Lane cellar hole would be another candidate for registration.

#### **Bucket List:**

- Invasives at Sargent will be treated in 2022.
- Elizabeth reported on the ERLAC Let's Get Pumped septic maintenance program. She said that Exeter received permission to include a flyer promoting the program in property tax bills and will find out if Kingston might do the same.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Next meeting Thursday, January 6, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Foss, Secretary*