

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
10/6/2022

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Geof Harris, Kevin St. James (Select Board Ex-Officio)

Excused Absence: Greg Senko, Bob Smith

Guests: Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 8/4/2022 and 9/8/2022 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw provided a budget summary:

Conservation Fund: \$28,251.12
(Working Balance \$9,975.12, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$18,276.00)
Forest Fund: \$ 17,280.91

2023 Budget:

Shaw presented the proposed 2023 budget, which totals \$9,760 and represents a 0% increase from 2022. Mr. St. James said that with inflation and increased energy costs the town budget is expected to increase and there is concern about presenting a budget that will be passed by a majority of residents. He said that it is helpful that the Conservation Commission is not requesting a budget increase for next year. MM&S to accept the proposed budget.

Warrant Articles:

Shaw presented a draft of a warrant article is to withdraw \$8,000 from the Forest Fund. The funds will be used for an updated Forest Management Plan for Valley Lane Town Forest. Remaining funds may be used for Town Forest trail maintenance.

Shaw also presented a draft warrant article to add town-owned properties Map R1 Lots 9 & 10, and the soon-to-be-acquired Map R1 Lots 6 & 7, to Valley Lane Town Forest. These lots abut Valley Lane and should be added to the Town Forest so that they may be managed by the Conservation Commission and included in the updated Forest Management Plan.

Mr. St. James recommended submitting the warrant articles as Selectmen's articles and advised Shaw to submit them to the Department of Revenue Administration for approval.

Correspondence:

- A resident complained about explosions heard on or nearby Frye Road. Evy responded that since the area in question may not be part of Frye Town Forest it is probably not managed by the Conservation Commission, and that NH Fish & Game should be contacted. This may be a wait and see.
- An East Kingston resident sent an email expressing concern over the potential sale of Kingston Fairways and the impact it may have on wildlife on the property.
- NH DES sent VLAP reports for Powwow Pond, Great Pond and Country Pond.
- Duane Hyde, SELT Land Conservation Director, sent an email reporting that the sale of Map R1 Lots 6 & 7 is nearly complete.
- Invitation from Powwow Pond Council to their annual meeting.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- 7 New Boston Road, Map R19 Lot 8. Dredge and fill permit application for septic system. Evy walked the property and confirmed that the proposed septic installation looks as though it is mostly in upland. The area is marked. MM&S to approve the dredge and fill permit application.
- 69 Ball Road, Map R25 Lot 1-2. No comment, as planned building falls outside wetlands setbacks.
- 3 New Boston Road, Map R19 Lot 10. Plans to install new septic system with upgraded capacity. No comment as there are no wetlands or run-off issues involved.
- 64 Main St. Dredge and fill permit application to repair existing retaining wall on Great Pond. As this is a repair of a deteriorating wall, CC has no comment at this time.

The Nature Conservancy monitoring walk:

Greg and Evy met with Krista Helmboldt of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) during a scheduled monitoring walk. They discussed the following points:

- TNC is considering active management of Atlantic White Cedar groves, as advised by Indigenous groups, including the one on the Sargent property, to ensure sustainable growth.
- Evy and Greg asked about designating the Sargent property as a Town Forest. TNC will review and advise.
- Although not allowed, TNC will no longer prioritize controlling ATV use within power company easements.
- Evy mentioned her thoughts about renaming ET's Landing for the Pentucket Trail, but Ms. Helmboldt suggested keeping the name ET's Landing, which commemorates the efforts of

Diane Eadie and Bill Tucker in conserving this and other property along the Powwow River. A historical marker was suggested.

- Invasives in the power company easement will be evaluated by TNC to determine if removal is desired or required.
- There is some fill blocking water flow at the south end of the Sargent Property that should be removed.

Trails Committee:

- Trail signs: Greg created a sample 24" x 36" trail map for Acorn using Caltopo software. When the few remaining edits are completed he will create a print-ready file.
- Acorn: The kiosk has been installed at the trail head. Greg and Peter re-routed the Red trail to circumvent a steep hill.
- Valley Lane: Greg and Linda have walked some of the property to be added to Valley Lane. There is potential to establish a long trail starting from the Orange trail and reconnecting with the Red trail.
- Sargent/ET's Landing: Evy has a group coming to clear ET's Landing by the end of the month. The fallen tree was removed.
- Trail Brochures: Linda received a quote of \$139 for quantity 150. MM&S to place order, all in favor.

Pollinator Pathways NH Committee:

- The presentations to the Monadnock Garden Club and Dover Conservation Commission were very well received and well attended.
- The October e-newsletter has been sent out.
- The annual Seed Exchange will be held at the Rec Center on October 29 9am – 2pm. Over 100 attendees are expected.

New Business:

- NHACC Conference Saturday, November 5. Will be in-person this year at Pembroke Academy. Registrations are due by October 30.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Historical marker at ET's Landing
- Granit update
- Update list of conservation properties
- Improved trails intersection signage

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

Next meeting Thursday, November 3, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary