

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
12/8/2022

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Geof Harris, Elizabeth Mello, Bob Smith, Kevin St. James (Select Board Ex-Officio), Greg Senko (by phone)

Excused Absence: Melissa Butler

Guests:

Elizabeth Berquist, Associate Director of Land Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Rick Russman, Friends of Kingston Open Space

Jeff Sluder

The Nature Conservancy Whitcomb Parcels Presentation:

Elizabeth Berquist of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) gave a presentation on the Whitcomb parcels bordering the Powwow River. TNC has signed an offer letter to purchase the property and are in the process of securing funding. The projected time to complete the purchase is spring/summer of 2023.

TNC will transfer the deed to the Town of Kingston with a simultaneous conservation easement to TNC, and TNC will monitor the property.

This property has been identified as a priority for conservation by both the Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan and the Coastal Conservation Plan. It contains an exemplary natural community of Atlantic White Cedar and unique riverside fens, and overlaps with important drinking water resources.

The current owner will lease the existing buildings so that they may continue to use their camp.

Kevin St. James asked whether the Town would still be able access water resources. TNC confirmed that the Town has a right of way to the two parcels between Whitcomb and Sargent.

TNC will be presenting to the Select Board in the near future and asked if the Conservation Commission supported the transfer of the property title to the Town of Kingston. MM&S to support TNC's proposal to the Select Board, all in favor.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 11/3/2022 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw provided a budget summary:

Conservation Fund: \$28,291.26
(Working Balance \$10,015.26, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$18,276.00)

Forest Fund: \$ 17,229.56

As of December 5, the Conservation Commission had spent \$9,172.05 of the 2022 budget of \$9,760.

Warrant Articles:

Shaw presented drafts of the two warrant articles and requested feedback. He has submitted the articles to NHDRA and is waiting for their comments.

Correspondence:

- SELT Newsletter
- Supply Lines newsletter (NH DES)
- Chief Pellerin request that the UTV on loan to the Conservation Commission from the Police Department be garaged at the Fire Department for emergency use.
- Evy responded to SELT letter regarding issues found on monitoring walks.

New Business:

- Book of Conserved Properties. Evy reported that she, Jeff and Geof are making good progress, having completed half of the properties.
- Manuel incursion. Dennis Quintal visited the site and after locating the property boundary markers, determined that the abutter's fence, as well as the abutter's boat, is on town property. Evy contacted Charlotte Harding at CLS to ask advice on requesting that the fence be moved.
- Valley Lane boundary pipe. Evy suggested trying to find remnants of the broken pipe with a metal detector in order to reset it properly.
- Mayhew. The Nature Conservancy advised that the Kingston Conservation Commission is responsible for monitoring the portion of the Mayhew property that is in Newton. Geof and Jeff walked that section on December 4 and found it to be in good condition.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- Annual LCIP monitoring reports have been submitted to the Conservation Land Stewardship Program.
- 11 Mockingbird Lane. Septic design. No comment as there are no wetlands on the site.
- 1 Lincoln Circle. Septic design. No comment as there are no wetlands on the site.

Trails Committee:

- Acorn: Greg posted the map on the kiosk.
- Frye Road: Evy ordered a “No Dumping” sign and asked if someone on the Trails Committee could post the sign along with a game camera.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Historical marker at ET’s Landing
- Granit update
- Blazes to be painted
- Improved trails intersection signage

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Next meeting Thursday, January 5, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary