

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

3/9/2023

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith, Elizabeth Mello, Geof Harris, Greg Senko (via Zoom), Linda Foss (via Zoom), Kevin St. James (Select Board Ex Officio)

Guests: Rick Russman, Ernie Landry, Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Conservation Land Opportunity:

Rick Russman and Ernie Landry of Friends of Kingston Open Space (FOKOS) presented information on a potential opportunity for the town to purchase Map 1 Lot 8, a parcel which is surrounded by the Valley Lane Town Forest and the newly acquired Map 1 Lots 6 and 7 (a proposed addition to Town Forest). FOKOS wanted to assess Conservation's level of interest in this property. Greg said that adding the parcel to Valley Lane would expand trail development options as well as open up the future possibility of connecting to conserved land in Plaistow. The two possible sources of funding discussed were the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund and the Conservation Fund. A formal vote was not taken, but all in attendance agreed that FOKOS should move forward with their efforts to purchase this parcel.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 1/5/2022 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw provided a budget summary:

Conservation Fund: \$28,541.59
(Working Balance \$10,265.59, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$18,276.00)
Forest Fund: \$ 17,324.56

MM&S to renew the Zoom annual subscription at a cost of \$149.90.

MM&S to request that the Conservation Fund and Forest Fund accounts be moved to Partners Bank.

Correspondence:

- New NHACC Conservation Commission Handbook. Shaw asked if there was a .pdf version of the handbook. Evy said that there was not, and that Conservation could purchase additional hard copies if needed.
- Email from Vicki Brown of the East Kingston Conservation Commission regarding their warrant article for a \$6 million loan to purchase land for conservation.
- Correspondence with Dubois and King, contractors for Long Pond Dam. Dennis Quintal recommended that Conservation attend the technical review for this project.
- Saving Special Places registration. This year there will be in-person workshops. The registration fees will be covered under the Seminars and Training budget.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

No plans to review at the time of the meeting.

Trails Committee:

- The hiking sign opposite the entrance to Valley Lane was knocked down during a recent snowstorm. Evy notified DPW by email. Jeff will check to see if the sign has been restored.
- Bob said that Danville would be voting on a warrant article to permit ATV use on the power line easements in their town. He said that if this passes, it will most likely affect Kingston as ATVs are already entering Acorn Town Forest from Danville.

Pollinator Pathways:

- The butterfly survey project training session was very successful, with over 350 attendees.
- Kingston Community Library will officially open the seed library on March 25. Patty Davidson will be there with information about pollinator-friendly gardening.
- Spring event will include:
 - Spring ephemeral guided walk
 - Presentation to Massabesic Garden Club
 - Presentation to Rochester Garden Club (New Durham Garden Club will attend)
 - Presentation to Atkinson Garden Club
- Marghi visited NH Fish & Game headquarters to obtain brochures to hand out at the spring events.

New Business:

- 14 Lake Road (Fidler): Charlotte Harding of OSI sent an email to Evy regarding the incursion onto the abutting Manuel Property. OSI's legal counsel agreed that the incursion needs to be addressed but determined that it is Kingston's responsibility as the Manuel property deed is in the town's name. Kevin St. James will coordinate with the Select Board and the Code Enforcement Officer to determine the town's next step in this matter.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Sargent trail to ET's Landing. The utility easement holder indicated that they were open to installing a bridge or culvert if the Town can obtain the proper permits. When the snow clears Phil Coombs will visit the site to take measurements.
- Review of Conserved Properties Book. The review is complete and Evy is in the process of obtaining the missing information.
- Valley Lane downed boundary pipe. The base of the pipe needs to be located with a metal detector.
- Trash and signage – cameras on Frye Road
- Historical marker at ET's Landing

Other:

- Atkinson recently received a \$118,000 LCHIP grant to purchase conservation land. They received positive publicity with a visit from the Governor and an article with photo in the Carriage Towne News. Note for future land acquisitions by the Conservation Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Next meeting Thursday, April 6, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary