

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
8/3/2023

Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm at the Kingston Community Library

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Greg Senko

Excused Absences: Elizabeth Mello, Charles Hart (Select Board Ex Officio)

Guests: Jeff Sluder

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 7/13/23 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Shaw presented the monthly budget report:

Conservation Fund: \$24,062.00
(Working Balance \$10,466.00, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$13,596.00)

Forest Fund: \$ 17,379.10

Correspondence:

- VLAP water sample report for Country Pond and Powwow Pond.
- Post card from Katie Bates of SELT re: monitoring walks.
- Tree Farm Field Day notice
- SELT invitation to Landowner Gathering
- Email from Paul Wainwright, Atkinson Conservation Commission chair re: NHACC and proposed closure of mountain bike trails by the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Mr. Wainwright, who is also an NHACC board member, contacted Evy to arrange an outreach meeting. At the same time, he asked about Kingston's experience with mountain bikers on town-maintained trails. Greg responded that mountain bike traffic was relatively light and low impact, and that Kingston's only problems had been with ATVs.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

No plans to review at the time of the meeting.

- 83 Route 125 Map R10 Lot 9, CJ & J Leasing. Cynthia Theriault of Wilcox & Barton sent an email stating that the plans for the project are temporarily on hold pending investigation of the vernal pool that was discovered on the site.

Unitil Solar Array:

After reading the Dredge and Fill permit Evy submitted several questions to TF Moran. She reported their answers:

- The compensatory mitigation proposal is being updated. It now comprises 6.5 acres but may be increased by another 2-3 acres.
- Unitil intends to include the parcel at 2 Mill Road as part of the initial property purchase as it could be used for possible addition of another solar array. However, the Towle Road solar array is intended to be single phase project. Any future solar array at 2 Mill Road would be an entirely different project.
- Mr. Aube characterized wetlands 1-3 as low function and value because they lack sufficient food sources and groundwater recharge, have little, if any, standing water, are forested, and are not connected to other wetlands. As such they are on the verge of qualifying as wetlands. These three wetlands comprise less than one acre.
- TF Moran and Unitil will hold a pre-construction meeting with work crews to educate them on protected species, particularly spotted turtles and Blanding's turtles, which they may encounter as they begin work. The crew will be provided with photos of the wildlife and will be encouraged to report sightings.
- TF Moran will consider PPNH's recommendations on the wildflower mix to be planted on the site.

Trails Committee:

- Greg reported that he had built the benches and had nearly completed the kiosks. He was working on maps for Sargent/ET's Landing and the car top boat launch and asked what should be used for names on the kiosk signs. He proposed several names for each area. There was an unofficial consensus that "Green Road Boat Launch" was a good choice for the Manuel sign. Evy said she would research Diane Eadie's records and reach out to LCIP for ideas on how to accurately represent the Sargent/ET's Landing area.
- Greg had a conversation with someone from the Plaistow Conservation Commission regarding their proposed trail from the recreation field to Misery Hill. They said that the project, which has been in progress for the past six years, was on hold due to a dispute with an abutter who had clearcut some conservation land without permission.
- Evy attended a meeting with Library Director Melissa Mannon, Board of Directors Chair Stephanie Hasselbeck, Walt Roy, and Yohann Hanley of SELT to discuss a connecting trail from the Library to the Tucker & French Family Forest trails. Evy told

them that the Conservation Commission could provide resources to create a trail but could not be involved in negotiating access and landowner permission.

- Shaw asked about the updated forest management plan for Valley Lane, which should be completed and billed by the end of 2023. Evy said she would contact Ron Klemarczyk to find out when he plans to do the survey.
- Melissa Mannon also asked Evy to give a presentation on local hiking options for seniors.

Pollinator Pathways:

- Evy asked for volunteers to help set up, take down and staff the table at Kingston Days.
- PPNH did a presentation at the Hampton Falls Library.
- The Facebook page has been very active.
- There is a request from Grantham, NH for a possible Zoom presentation.

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Meeting to discuss Rowell Estates conservation easement. August 14.
- Review of Conserved Properties Book ongoing.
- Granit update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next meeting Thursday, September 7, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary