

Minutes: Kingston Conservation Commission

11/8/18

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, John Ricker, Bob Smith, Greg Senko, Linda Foss, Amanda Prophett

Guests: Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Marghi, John second.

Evy passed out new important contact lists.

Treasurer's Report:

John attended the 2019 budget review. The budget was submitted and discussed.

A check for \$400.00 for professional services (invasive plant spraying) was issued to RCCD via the BOS. We also sent a check for \$400 from the Forest Fund. Evy believes that John misunderstood her email, and that there is a remaining balance to be paid. They will review the bill and payments.

Correspondence:

The Commission received an email from Folly Brook Terrace resident Paula Pelletier regarding the use of the Fairgrounds by the Highway Department for storing recycled asphalt. She is concerned about the various piles of material blocking trails, and about the potential environmental and health impact of toxins from the asphalt. She noted in her email that she planned to speak at the November 5 Select Board meeting. Evy had a phone conversation with Paula, in which she pointed out that the topsoil and wood chip piles that the Highway Department has left at the Fairgrounds provide good habitats for wildlife, but that she shares Paula's concern about the asphalt. Rich St. Hilaire confirmed that the crushed asphalt has been at the Fairgrounds for about one year and was left there because there was no room for it at the town yard. Rich intends to have DES inspect the asphalt to determine whether it could have any negative impact on the environment

or the community well that services the Folly Brook Terrace neighborhood. He will report the results of the inspection when they are available.

Ann Moran sent an email expressing concerns about activity being undertaken by the Ridgewood Association. She reported that they are planning to cut down more trees and add up to 11 more docks. Evy forwarded information to Shoreland Protection. She also advised Ann to contact Kingston Lake Association. The Conservation Commission will review the dock permits when they're received.

Susan Ayer sent an email requesting that the Conservation Commission work with Mike Fleck of the Long Pond Protective Association regarding the dam on the Griffin property. Mike's concern is that the NHDES Bureau of Dams has contacted the owner, Bob Griffin, about deficiencies in the condition and maintenance of the dam. The dam has been reinforced with concrete in some critical areas but still has stacked rocks in one area an earthen center. Mike's long-term concern is that if the dam is not maintained, the pond might be drained for safety reasons by eliminating the dam. Evy and Greg went to Long Pond to view the dam, which is in Kingston. On October 29 Bob Griffin spoke to the Kingston Select Board about the deficiencies letter from NHDES. He informed them that he has hired hydrologist Steve Cummings to evaluate the dam, and that some of the deficiencies have already been corrected.

Amanda Hollenbeck from DES Office of Energy and Planning regarding the proposed Country Pond cartop boat launch on the Manuel LCIP property. She noted that if the Town believes that the space falls within the terms of the conservation easement, and there is no alteration of terrain, then the plan could proceed. However, she also noted that the Town needs to agree, and that a management plan must be developed to address trash, bathrooms, possible illegal activity, etc.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

*4 Marshall Road, Tax map R33 Lot 21: This is a proposal to build eight four-plex units for elderly housing. There is a question as to whether the parking provided is adequate for the proposed number of units. The project will also encroach on one wetland buffer. The Commission will try to obtain more information on this wetland.

*266 Route 125, Tax map R41 Lot 17: This is a dredge and fill application for a proposed 486,000 sq. ft. commercial building. The wetland to be filled in is 3,858

sq. ft. We will request that the developer appears before the Commission to explain his plans.

LCIP Monitoring:

LCIP monitoring walk assignments are as follows: Evy & Jeff - Bake/Russman/Mayhew; Marghi & Bob - Bakie Farm; Greg & Linda – Manuel

Evy visited the site of a missing bound on the Bake LCIP property with Rich St. Hilaire. Rich agreed, and said that a surveyor has to replace the bound at the Town's expense. Rich will take care of the issue.

Signs/Trails/Forests:

The re-routed Blue trail at Frye is open but not yet connected as a loop with other trails. It will need to be completed in the spring. Hiking trail signs have been put up, and blazes added. Evy proposed providing a contribution to Southern New Hampshire Trailblazers for gas for their grooming machines as a thank-you for their work on the trail.

Laidlaw/DiPietro incursion issues: Evy and Peter Coffin spoke with Mr. Laidlaw. He has agreed to repair the broken stonewalls. Work should be completed by early next summer when the property will be re-monitored. The issue of the incursion on Mr. DiPietro's property is still in progress.

The wildlife-viewing platform re-built by Eagle candidate Ben Giles is completed. The next Eagle project should be creating a trail to reach the platform.

Trails Subcommittee:

The Commission voted to create a Trails Subcommittee. Bob will head the subcommittee, Greg and Linda will participate, and they will recruit and rely on volunteers from the community for trail mapping, building and maintenance projects. A sign-in sheet will be used to record volunteer time. Motion by Marghi, seconded by Evy, all in favor.

Election Day Booth:

Evy and Marghi set up a table at the Swasey Gym on November 6. Greg, John and Amanda helped staff the table. There was a great deal of interest in the Conservation Commission and we received 1 ½ pages of signatures of people who were interested in various activities, including a pollinator project planned for next year.

Pollinator Project:

Marghi will be volunteer coordinator, and also will head the upcoming town-wide pollinator project.

Warrant Article:

Evy will be writing a warrant article to designate the town-owned Rockrimmon Town property accessible from Acorn Drive as a Town Forest. The proposed name will be Acorn Town Forest to avoid confusion with the Rockrimmon State Forest.

Evy, Greg, Linda, John and Marghi gave brief synopses of their workshops at the NHACC conference.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm

Next meeting Thursday, December 6, 6:45 pm at the library