

Minutes  
**Kingston Conservation Commission**  
2/3/2022

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

Present: Evy Nathan, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Greg Senko (remote), Bob Smith, Geof Harris, Elizabeth Mello, Donald Briggs (Select Board ex officio)

Excused Absence: Marghi Bean

Guests: Ron Klemarczyk (Foreco), Michael DiPietro (9 Acorn Drive), Joshua Howes (58 Ball Road)

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the 12/9/21 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes, all in favor. The January meeting was cancelled since a quorum of members could not attend due to the Covid surge.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Shaw presented the current bank account balances:

Conservation Fund: \$28,909.16  
(Working Balance \$9,09.16, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$19,000.00)

Forest Fund: \$ 5,236.43

- The 2022 budget is pending voter approval at Town Meeting in March
- Greg requested \$1,130.00 for two cattle gates with locks and chains to be installed at the Sargent and Acorn trailheads. The Highway Department will install the gates at no charge and will provide the telephone pole sections. Evy asked if we could use boulders to block the Sargent entrance and use the utility company access for maintenance. Greg and Geof said that when they used that road last fall it was extremely rutted and safely passable only in a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Passenger car and utility trailer access would be extremely limited making it difficult to transport equipment, supplies and other large items required for trail maintenance. Other members stated that gates look more professional than boulder and trees. MM&S, all in favor.
- The annual Zoom subscription is due for renewal in April and will need to be voted on at the March meeting.



## **Acorn Town Forest Timber Harvest**

Ron Klemarczyk gave an update on the ongoing timber harvest. As of the meeting, all but 20 of the trees marked for harvest had been cut. All timber will be skidded out in the next 2-3 weeks.

- The timber harvest was recommended as part of the Forest Management Plan developed in accordance with conservation easement requirements. The primary focus of the harvest is removal of mature hemlock trees that have been infested with woolly adelgid. State and country forestry experts recommend removing these trees while they still have value as lumber to facilitate forest regeneration and to reduce fire hazard.
- Trees were marked for cutting on only 30 acres of the 100+ acres in Acorn and West Kingston Town Forests.
- No logging will be done in the southwest corner by the ledges, which Mr. Klemarczyk recommended be left as a natural area. Buffer zones have been created around vernal pools and the skidder trails have been laid out to avoid following the existing trail system.
- The timber harvest will yield approximately 114,000 board feet of lumber which will provide a net profit of \$12,000 - \$14,000. Profits from the timber harvest will be deposited in the Forest Fund which is managed by the Conservation Commission to fund future forest management needs.
- Mr. Klemarczyk presented a map showing the skid roads and where they intersect the trails.
- There will be a space cleared for a parking area at the trail head so visitors will not have to park on the circle.
- Logging is being done only when the ground is frozen to prevent ruts. Mr. Klemarczyk monitors the site daily and will not allow logging if it rains. Slash will be cleared from the trails.
- Mr. Klemarczyk will add some trail markers to replace ones lost during the logging operation.

The logger's excavator bucket broke when attempting to remove a stump from frozen ground. When the bucket was disconnected for repair some hydraulic fluid leaked on the ground in the log yard which borders 9 Acorn Drive. Mr. DiPietro expressed concern that the fluid may contaminate his well. The logger took some initial remedial actions to limit the amount of fluid spilled, and Mr. Klemarczyk and the Highway Department had inspected the spill area. Mr. DiPietro presented photos of the area where the fluid spilled. Chief Briggs requested a copy of Mr. DiPietro's photos by email so that he could coordinate with Mr. Klemarczyk and the Highway Department to determine if further remediation is required.

Mr. DiPietro and Mr. Howes referenced a logging operation that was completed last fall on the Cheney property in Danville near the West Kingston Town Forest trailhead. There was extensive clear cutting on that site, and they were very concerned that the same would be done at Acorn. Mr. Klemarczyk said only selective cutting was being done and that it was nearly complete.

Mr. DiPietro said that the pavement on the circle had cracked where the heavy equipment entered the town forest. Mr. Klemarczyk and the Highway Department will re-inspect the pavement to determine if immediate repair is needed.



### **Correspondence:**

- Granite State Tree Farmer newsletter.
- NH DES letters concerning the wetlands violations at lots R24 5A and R24 5C.
- SELT email to Zoning Board stating that they did not receive an abutter notification letter for the hearing on the proposed gas station at 249 Route 125, since they hold the conservation easement on the property. SELT expressed concern about the project's impact on the Coombs farm, the Little River and the aquifer protection district.
- NH DES Dam Bureau contacted Evy by phone. A beaver dam located downstream of the Main Street dam has been causing flooding. They have since met with Mr. St Hilaire and Phil Coombs. It was decided that the dam be removed. The Highway Department will remove the dam.
- Copy of letter to the Select Board by Muriel Ingalls of Kingston Lake Association expressing concerns about continued development around Great Pond and in the aquifer protection district, and suggesting signage regarding the APZ for public awareness.
- SELT monitoring report for Valley Lane. A corner boundary pipe is missing and will need to be replaced. The site will need to be surveyed.
- SELT monitoring report for Coombs farm.
- SELT newsletter.
- Saving Special places letter announcing their annual conference in April.
- A resident sent Evy an email expressing concern over the materials dumped at the Fairgrounds by the Highway Department. Chief Briggs will forward the email to Rich St. Hilaire.

### **Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:**

#### **Granite Field commercial condos revised plans.**

The Conservation Commission's previous comments on this project, and concern over its impact on the adjacent wetlands and Little River still stand. Elizabeth suggested issuing the same comments with stronger wording.

Saddle Up Saloon: The latest set of plans still show snow storage areas next to Bartlett Brook. Elizabeth said that she had seen where snow had been plowed into the stream during a recent storm. Evy requested that someone take photos.

Aloha Garage Door – 9 Main St.: This project does not impact wetlands and no hazardous materials will be used or stored on site. No comment.



### **Trails Subcommittee:**

- Valley Lane: SELT contacted Evy to ask if Kingston would like host their featured hike for National Trails Day on June 4. Evy suggested Valley Lane and SELT agreed. To prepare for this event the Trails Subcommittee will prioritize Valley Lane improvements for completion before June 4. Projects will includes re-decking the two bridges which were not repaired last year, improving the approach to the new bridge on the Blue trail, adding mileage markers, replacing the tree description markers and clearing trails.
- West Kingston Town Forest: Geof reported that the portion of the rock wall bordering the Laidlaw property closest to Rockrimmon Road has been repaired, but other sections had not. He also reported that there were no ATV tracks.
- Sargent: Greg will reach out again to Eugenia Snyder, Right of Way Specialist at Eversource, to discuss improving the low spot in the road under the power lines.

### **Pollinator Pathways Subcommittee:**

- The January photo contest was successful with many submissions from several towns.
- Heidi Holman, Wildlife Biologist with NH Fish & Game's non-game wildlife program, will do a Zoom presentation on butterfly monitoring on April 8, 5:30 pm. Details to follow.
- The Monadnock Conservancy contacted Kingston PPNH for information on pollinator habitats, and to suggest working with us.
- Bagley Pond Perennials of Warner contacted PPNH to see how they can collaborate with us.
- Melissa Manning, the new Director of the Kingston Community Library, has approved the seed library, and will provide a location in the Library's front room.

### **New Business:**

- By-Laws: Linda distributed an updated version of the KCC by-laws which are based on the original document that Evy discovered in the old Town Hall filing cabinets. Members were asked to comment and Evy and Linda will research other conservation commission's by-laws for ideas. The revised by-laws will be presented at the March meeting for consideration, with the goal of voting in the amended by-laws at the April meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- Granit database update to be completed in 2022.
- Car top boat launch. Work to be schedule for this spring/summer.

### **Bucket List:**

- Invasives at Sargent should be treated in 2022.



- ET's Landing Historical Marker. Evy learned that ET's Landing was a stop on the Pentucket Trail, which was used by indigenous tribes in the Penacook confederacy. She suggested possibly re-naming ET's landing with an Abenaki name, and adding a historical marker to explain the site's history and significance. Indigenous Peoples' Day, Oct. 10, could be a date to move ahead with this public education project.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Next meeting Thursday, March 3, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Foss, Secretary*