

Draft Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
Trails Committee
10/26/2022
Kingston Community Library

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Ernie Landry, Rick Russman, Walt Roy, Geof Harris, Peter Coffin and Greg Senko

Discussion of minutes:

Minutes from the August meeting were accepted as written. MM&S.

Discussion of potential next steps on selected properties:

Acorn Town Forest:

Status update:

- The kiosk has been installed at the parking lot.
- The Blue connector trail in the middle of the Red trail has been re-marked to Green.
- A short section of the Red trail was rerouted to avoid a steep hill.
- A new section of the White trail was established to add the overlook recommended by Ron Klemarczyk to the trail system.
- Walt Roy disposed of the 9 tires that were removed from the White trail.

Next actions:

- Geof needs an SD card for the game camera.
- The White trail connection to the Orange trail will be cleared and marked.

Valley Lane:

The Alessio property survey is now complete. SELT is preparing the baseline property documentation and a closing on the property is expected by the end of the year.

Frye Town Forest:

There is a large tree hanging over the Blue trail. The group will meet on November 3 at 1pm to remove the tree.

Ahl/Noyes:

No discussion.

Sargent:

During a recent monitoring walk with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), it was observed that there is considerable ATV activity disturbing the wetlands area in the wooded area near the “power lines elbow”. There are deep tracks in the mud and some of the area has been filled in. TNC requested the following actions:

- Mark the area with “No ATV” signs
- Remove the fill
- Install a game camera to monitor the area

Other ATV tracks were observed under the power lines, but the impact was light.

West Kingston Town Forest:

No discussion.

Manuel Property:

The game camera showed that the launch was being used by kayakers, paddlers, fishermen and duck hunters. All seemed to be dropping off their boats and parking at the proper lot.

New Business:

- The Conservation Commission proposed that the trails in the Currier Wildlife Management Area be mapped and marked.
- Greg requested that the time log sheets be filled out and submitted. He sent out examples of each month’s activities to the group.
- Greg won’t be available to meet in person from November through March. Geof volunteered to be the main point of contact for the group during this period.
- The 2023 trails budget was discussed. The budget proposed by the Conservation Commission includes a \$2,000 line item for trails maintenance, the same as 2022. A warrant article will be proposed to make \$8,000 of the Forest Fund accessible for use in 2023. \$5,000 of that will be used to fund an updated forest management plan for Valley Lane Town Forest, with the remaining \$3,000 to be used for trails work that exceeds the \$2,000 line item. The Trails Committee’s opinion was that the line-item budget should reflect the actual annual trail work cost and that the Forest Fund should not be used for this regularly occurring expense. The group would like to see the Forest Fund reserved for extraordinary expenses like forest management plans, surveys, land acquisition, etc.

Work Session Schedule:

Frye Town Forest – Remove hanging tree - November 3 at 1pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: December 7 at 7pm