

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
Trails Subcommittee
4/28/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Present: Greg Senko, Bob Smith, Peter Coffin, Geof Harris, Linda Foss, Evy Nathan

Excused absence: Melissa Butler, Brad Maxwell, Stan Wentzell, Shaw Tilton, Walt Roy, Ernie Landry

Discussion of minutes:

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Peter, seconded by Geof.

ATV Training:

Greg does not yet have a date from the Highway Department for ATV training.

Acorn Town Forest:

Evy is still waiting to hear from Ron Klemarczyk regarding a date and time to walk the forest to assess the extent of woolly adelgid.

Greg asked whether some of the existing trails should be used as skid roads and that other hiking trails be developed. Peter pointed out that this approach would result in less impact on the forest, as it would result in fewer roads and more walking trails. Greg will email Mr. Klemarczyk with this question so that he can review plans and make a recommendation at the time of the next walk.

Greg is considering moving the trail camera closer to Acorn circle so that it is easier to access for memory card and battery changes.

Peter asked if there was any further news on the abutter who had filled in wetlands. Evy said there has been no further correspondence from NH DES

Greg emailed the photo of an ATV obtained from the trail camera to Chief Briggs, but he has heard nothing further. Evy will ask Chief Briggs whether the individual has been identified.

West Kingston Town Forest:

Evy has a hiking sign that can be installed near the gate.

Valley Lane:

A work crew assessed the bridges on April 17 and found that some are in need of immediate repair. There are several additional wet areas that would benefit from having bank-to-bank bridges installed.

A trail re-route was done on the Red/Blue trail to circumvent a large wet area, eliminating the need for a bridge.

Greg pointed out that one of the reasons the current decking is deteriorating is that the boards were spaced too close together and therefore hold moisture. He suggested re-decking the bridges with a ¼" gap between the boards, and that screws should be used as fasteners.

Greg presented a budget for repairing and building bridges.

Frye Town Forest:

A work session is scheduled for May 1. The work crew will bring equipment needed to repair the bridges, but some assessment needs to be done as it may not be possible to re-use the bridge bases.

Greg presented a budget for the repairing the bog bridges and installing a kiosk. Peter's proposed kiosk differs from the one at Valley Lane as it is a 2-post design similar to the ones that SELT uses but smaller. Evy said that she would prefer that the maps be uniform in all town forests.

Ahl/Noyes Property:

A work session was held on April 24 to clear the trail and determine the position of the 16' bridge spanning the wet area. Greg presented budget numbers for the bridge.

Bart Noyes has requested "No ATVs" signs for the trail and a hiking sign will be needed for the trail head. Peter said that signs would also be needed to indicate where the trail enters private property.

Bob confirmed that there is a map for this property.

Sargent Property:

Evy and Greg met with Krista Helmboldt of the Nature Conservancy at the proposed Sargent parking area. Ms. Helmboldt indicated that the parking area proposal would receive Nature Conservancy approval with appropriate documentation and permitting. Greg will submit a drawing of the proposed area. Greg also contacted Eben Lewis regarding permitting. Mr. Lewis

answered that if there is no work done in the adjacent wetland a permit would not be required. Greg will relay that information to Krista Helmboldt.

Rich St. Hilaire had several suggestions regarding the parking area. He said that the pavement was not asphalt but farmer's mix – oil sprayed on gravel – and that it would crumble if disturbed. He recommended removing it and adding gravel. He also suggested re-using the existing orange posts and having a crossbar gate fabricated would be more cost-effective than purchasing a bull gate. He will get back to Greg with a cost estimate for the work.

Greg will speak with Chief Briggs regarding security issues that may arise from re-opening the road and parking area. With the approval of all parties involved and a cost estimate, the project will be presented to the Select Board.

Town Forest Walks:

Need to be scheduled. Evy has requested two town forest walks for this summer: one in Acorn and the other in one of the older town forests. SELT has offered to coordinate.

Work Session Schedule:

Pending Conservation Commission project approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next meeting: May 26 at 7:30 pm