

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

10/3/19

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Elizabeth Mello, John Ricker, Bob Smith, Melissa Butler, Linda Foss, Greg Senko, Richard Wilson (Select Board ex officio)

Excused absence: Marghi Bean

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as written. Motion by Bob, Elizabeth second, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

John could not report the current balance as he had not yet received the bank statement. He reported the following transactions for the month: \$423.99 for the West Kingston Town Forest fence; \$566.17 for VLAP water testing equipment; \$250.00 grant for the pollinator project from New England Grassroots Fund, deposited into our checking account as per Cindy.

John and Evy will attend the Budget Committee hearing on November 10 at 4:15pm to present the 2020 budget. Russell Chute from Powwow Pond Council will also be there to present his proposed warrant article for a town milfoil remediation fund. BOS member Kevin St. James is to be our budget liaison.

Correspondence:

NH DES: Powwow Pond Council forwarded a letter from Amy Smagula recommending herbicide treatment for milfoil in Powwow Pond as it has become too dense to be removed by divers. Divers may be used this fall to remove milfoil in some low-density areas.

American Tree Farm System: Notified the Commission that re-inspection of our tree farms (236 acres of Town Forest) has shown that they are being adequately maintained and are certified through 2025.

Country Pond Lake Association: VLAP team sent a thank-you note for the new Kemmerer bottle.

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests: Sent an email thanking Evy for informing them that there was evidence of sphagnum moss being removed from the Webster Wildlife & Natural Area.

The Commission signed a card for Dr. Charles Kerwin thanking him for leading the geology hike at Valley Lane.

Old Business:

The Select Board approved the dumpster at John's Auto Salvage, which is offered to Kingston residents for disposal of batteries, tires and white goods only. The dumpster is now in place.

New Business:

LCIP monitoring walks: Walks will be completed in November. Properties were assigned.

PFAS/PFOA Informational Meeting: An informational meeting on PFA/PFOA drinking water contamination will be held on October 23 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall with representatives from NH DES.

The Tucker French hike: organized by the Trails Subcommittee, is scheduled for Saturday, October 5.

The NHACC conference: will be held on Saturday, November 2. Six Conservation Commission members will attend. Marghi and Evy will have a Pollinator Pathways information table at the conference.

Pollinator Pathways: will hold a Seed Swap on October 15th at the East Kingston Library, and at October 23rd, 6-7 pm at the Kingston Community Library.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

*21 & 23 Mill Road, Map R12 Lot 14A, Map R-11 Lots 18 and 19: Owner proposes combining these 3 lots and then dividing the land into 4 new lots. Proposed lots conform with acreage requirements. There may be a future issue with wetland buffer setbacks on Lot D, depending on the value of the wetland in question. No comment at this time.

*North Road R-32 Lot 9A: New plan for a single driveway to be shared by 2 lots, which will have less impact on wetlands. The Commission notes that any house constructed on Lot A must remain outside the vernal pool buffer and wants to ensure that no other structures (sheds, etc.) will be placed inside the buffer.

*53 Marshall Road: The Planning Board chose the cluster plan, which will have the least impact on wetlands. Lots 7-2 and 7-3 have a wetland setback that comprises approximately half of each lot, so the Commission wishes to monitor these lots to ensure that building does not encroach on the vernal pool setback.

Trails Subcommittee:

West Kingston Town Forest: The gate has been picked up and delivered to the Town Garage. There is no date yet for the gate installation. The trails have been mapped but are not yet marked and a kiosk is needed for the trailhead.

Acorn Town Forest: Needs a trailhead kiosk and "NO ATV" signs. Evy has signs.

Sargent: On Tuesday October 1 Evy, Bob, Peter, Greg and Linda walked the Sargent Road property to ET's Landing to evaluate the possibility of making a wheelchair accessible trail. It appears that this would be feasible with the exception of one wet area which would require the

construction of a wheelchair accessible bog bridge, and some sandy areas which might need decomposed granite. Trash was removed from the Sargent Road trailhead on that day.

Gator: Chief Briggs suggested the possibility of providing a Gator (ATV) to the Conservation Commission. It could be used to remove large trash items from town conservation land and would be helpful in transporting materials for bog bridges. The Trails subcommittee will follow up.

North Kingston Town Forest: A sign has been placed on the illegal tree stand in the back Road Town Forest. If the owner does not remove the stand by October 30, (30 days from posting) the Commission will make plans to remove it before the winter.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, November 7, 6:45 pm at the library