

Minutes

**Kingston Conservation Commission**

1/9/2020

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

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

Excused absence: Marghi Bean, Greg Senko

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder

**Secretary's Report:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Evy provided the receipt for the orange vests and mentioned that she will be submitting receipts to John for the Audubon Field Guides that will be presented to the Eagle Scouts on January 18. The field guides will be paid for with our checking account as gifts do not fall under any line items.

**Correspondence:**

Kenneth Briggs sent a letter giving the Conservation Commission permission to clean up trash on his family's property, and offering assistance.

**New Business:**

Eagle Scout Court of Honor: Evy will speak at the Court of Honor and will present the Eagle Scouts with copies of the Field Guide, and certificates, as a thank-you for their conservation-related projects.

**Pollinator Pathways Events:**

January 15, 7pm, Kingston Community Library: Pollinator Pathway seed catalog challenge to educate gardeners on how to select native pollinator-friendly plants.

Tuesday, February 11 (primary day), Swasey Gym: Evy and Marghi will set up a display table.

Other events and CC visits are ongoing.

High School Project: Pollinator Pathways will be working with the high school sophomore class to plant a pollinator garden during the third semester.

BioBlitz: Prior to the meeting Evy circulated a video online describing a BioBlitz event, and would like to plan an event in one of the town forests this spring/summer. Richard commented that it was an excellent idea.

Saving Special Places (April 4): Evy, Marghi, Melissa, Elizabeth and Ken plan to attend – so far.

**Planning Board, DES, OEP:**

\* Bresnahan Moving & Storage. A representative from Rockingham County Conservation District and county forester Greg Jordan inspected the vernal pools on Saturday, January 4 with the planning board and members of the community, including Evy on behalf of the CC. Greg Jordan feels that it may be best to leave the site alone and allow native plants to re-grow. He and the RCCD rep. will both write reports and submit them to Glenn Greenwood. Bresnahan has planted approximately 120 new trees to restore the upland where many trees had been removed during construction.

\*266 Route 125, (SLS site) Tax map R41 Lot 17: Eben Lewis of NH DES and project engineer Luke Hurley sent emails CCing KCC, summarizing the list of potential mitigation properties in the state. Previously, FOKOS had submitted a list for Kingston alone. Mr. Hurley felt there were few, if any, sites which met the requirement, but Rick Russman will contact Mr. Hurley and Mr. Lewis to attempt to keep the mitigation in Kingston.

10<sup>th</sup> St. Logging Complaint: Several residents complained about a large number of trees that had been taken down in this neighborhood. It was reported that one resident hired someone to take down “a couple of” trees, then neighbors requested that other trees be removed. Trees that were on town-owned property were inadvertently removed, and the contractor left piles of slash. The town asked the logger to cease.

24<sup>th</sup> St.: Mr. Willett contacted the Conservation Commission to ask if he needed any kind of permission to take down some large white pines that are very close to his house. Evy visited Mr. Willett and confirmed that the trees could be removed, but also suggested that he bring a sketch of his plans to the Selectboard office as a courtesy.

**Trails Subcommittee:**

Evy formally appointed members to the Trails Subcommittee.

Members are:

Bob Smith, Ernie Landry, Walt Roy, Peter Coffin, Melissa Butler, Greg Senko, Linda Foss, Stan Wenzell and Brad Maxwell.

Motion by Evy, seconded by Elizabeth, all in favor.

\*Richard informed the Commission that for insurance purposes, the Trails Committee needs to inform Evy and fill out volunteer forms when they are doing a project. He added that any Trails Committee member who operates an ATV will need to receive training for insurance purposes.

Bob handed out the new official orange vests.

Greg Senko’s Permit by Notification for the bog bridges in Acorn and West Town Forests will need to be re-submitted on the newest DES form.

**Old Business and other:**

Tires still need to be removed from the conservation wetland abutting Ken's Auto Salvage. Bob will contact Ken's.

Frye Town Forest pallet removal and the Acorn Town Forest gate installation are on hold until spring.

Ken volunteered to discuss removal of the North Kingston Town Forest tree stand with NH Fish and Game.

Melissa cleared some downed trees at Valley Lane.

The EPA confirmed that due to security and safety concerns, a wildflower meadow cannot be planted and maintained on the Ottati and Goss site, nor can bluebird boxes be installed on the fence.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

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

Respectfully submitted, Linda Foss, Secretary