

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

11/7/19

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Linda Foss, John Ricker, Bob Smith, Melissa Butler, Linda Foss, Greg Senko, Elizabeth Mello

Excused absence: Marghi Bean

Guests: Walt Roy, Jeff Sluder Vicki Brown, East Kingston Conservation Commission;

Secretary's Report:

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

Pollinator Pathways Presentation: Vicki Brown of the East Kingston Conservation Commission gave the presentation that she and Evy and Marghi have been using to explain and promote the PP program to other commissions. Participating commissions now include Kingston, East Kingston, Newton and Raymond. We are hoping to bring more CC's on board. Thank you to Vicki for putting this excellent presentation together!

Treasurer's Report:

Evy and Russell Chute of Powwow Pond Council met with Selectman Kevin St. James to discuss PPC's proposal to establish a milfoil remediation line item to serve all town waterbodies, and to have that fund managed by the Conservation Commission. This would replace the need for an annual warrant article to fund milfoil removal at Powwow Pond. Mr. St. James had no objection.

The Conservation Commission budget review meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 10 at 4:15pm. Evy and John will attend, as well as Mr. Chute to explain the move from warrant to CC budget line item.

Correspondence:

NH DES: Sent VLAP water testing results for Powwow Pond. The results showed extremely high phosphorous levels at two sampling locations.

SELT: Sent a newsletter, which announced Phil Auger's retirement. Walt expounded on Phil's involvement, knowledge and expertise. He will be very much missed by SELT volunteers.

New Business:

NHACC Conference: Elizabeth, Melissa, Linda and Greg gave brief summaries of the sessions they attended.

LCIP monitoring walks: Walks will be completed in November. County Forester Greg Jordan suggested that we re-paint trail blazes during the walks. Evy has the paint.

SRMS Presentation: Evy, Greg and NH DES Beaches Program Coordinator Amanda McQuaid gave a presentation on cyanobacteria and answered questions for an 8th grade class at the middle school on November 4. Thank you to Greg for putting together an excellent PowerPoint presentation on short notice!

SRHS Pollinator Project: Evy attended a meeting at the high school and helped identify a spot for a pollinator meadow to be used in a sophomore class spring project.

Old Business:

The EPA confirmed that bluebird boxes can be installed on the fence surrounding the Ottati and Goss superfund site. This project will commence next spring.

Evy and Linda have nearly finished reviewing and reorganizing the Conservation Commission files at the town hall. While reviewing documents, Evy discovered that the town holds a conservation easement “to be utilized for public recreation” on land behind Rowell Estates (Ash Drive) on New Boston Road.

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

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

* 2 Library Lane. Shed to be built on property. No comment.

* 12 Rockrimmon Road/2 Ginger Way. Lot line adjustment. No comment as there are no wetlands on the property.

Trails Subcommittee:

A question has been raised regarding liability and insurance for Commission members, Committee members and volunteers doing trail work on town property. Evy has asked Richard Wilson to provide information on town policy.

The Commission will need to purchase more trail markers. There is some money remaining in this year’s budget for supplies, but not enough for orange vests with the CC name.

Ahl Property: This SELT-owned property is situated between the Tucker-French conservation area and Rockrimmon Road. It is currently used informally to connect Tucker-French with Acorn Town Forest. The Trails Committee will contact SELT to inquire about installing bog bridges on the property.

Valley Lane Town Forest: Melissa completed the monitoring walk with Ernie and Walt. No incursions were noted, although a particularly wet area where there has been debris in the past associated with Torromeo was not visited.

Frye Town Forest: Evy will contact the new scout leader to ask about plans for removal of the pile of pallets. It was decided that burning them could damage tree roots and be hazardous.

West Kingston Town Forest: The loop trail has been mapped. Trails still need to be blazed and signs put up. The gate is still at the town garage and should be installed soon.

Acorn Town Forest: Clearing the tree across the trail is on hold pending resolution of the insurance question.

Sargent/ET's Landing: At ET's Landing, removal of overgrowth around benches has been completed by Charles River Labs (of Boston) volunteers.

North Kingston (Back Road) Town Forest: Removal of the tree stand is on hold pending resolution of the insurance question.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, December 5, 6:45 pm at the library

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary