

Minutes

Kingston Conservation Commission

12/5/19

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Bob Smith, Melissa Butler, Linda Foss, Richard Wilson
(Select Board ex officio)

Excused absence: Elizabeth Mello, John Ricker, 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 Marghi, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

On Sunday, November 10, Evy and John attended the budget review meeting along with Russell Chute of Powwow Pond Council and Selectman Kevin St. James. The Budget Committee approved our 2020 budget, including the proposed milfoil remediation fund.

Evy provided mileage reimbursement to members who drove to the NHACC annual meeting in November.

Bob found a source for some reasonably-priced orange vests that include imprinting the Conservation Commission name. There is enough money in the budget to purchase one for each Commission member, plus an extra five vests for volunteers. Bob will place the order.

Correspondence:

SELT newsletter was distributed to attendees.

Greg Senko sent an email to Evy requesting clarification of insurance for Commission members, committee members and volunteers doing trail work on town property and/or using town equipment.

New Business:

Pollinator Pathways: On January 15, Pollinator Pathways will sponsor Pollinators 101 and Seed Catalogue Challenge" to educate gardeners on how to select native pollinator-friendly plants. Evy and Marghi will have a display table at the Swasey Gym on February 11 (primary voting day). Pollinator Pathways now has a Facebook page and has been tentatively invited to present a workshop at next year's NHACC Annual Meeting.

LCIP reports are in. Everything was found to be in order except the recurrent incursion into the Manuel property.

Mayhew property still requires monitoring; we are waiting to hear from Bill Newman, property owner, before scheduling this walk.

Bob purchased trash bags and tape and has volunteered again to cover the turtle crossing signs.

Evy has noticed that on several properties around town homeowners have been dumping yard waste into wetlands. She is considering leaving educational literature with a note from the Conservation Commission at these homes.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

* Bresnahan Moving & Storage. Bresnahan provided an amended site plan showing the replanting that is being done to remediate the large number of trees that were removed from the building site by the contractor. However, the plan does not yet include restoration of the trees and vegetation in the vernal pool buffers. Evy will attend the upcoming Planning Board meeting to request that Bresnahan hire a certified environmental consultant to provide a plan to restore the vernal pool buffers.

Trails Subcommittee:

There was no committee meeting update as the November meeting was cancelled due to Thanksgiving.

The question was raised as to whether Trails Subcommittee members who are not on the Conservation Commission need to be sworn in. Richard will follow up, and will also follow up on a list of questions regarding insurance that Greg Senko raised.

Evy will work with Susan Ayer to update the town website Conservation Commission page to include trail map QR codes.

Evy noted that she walked to Briggs property with Nicole Briggs in order to show her the large amount of trash that has been dumped there. Permission will be given early next summer.

Frye Town Forest: The Commission discussed the removal of the pallets, and because of the early snowfall, think it best to wait until late spring.

Acorn Town Forest: Rick and Ernie removed the fallen tree. A hiker posted a report of gunshots on the Red Trail on Facebook.

North Kingston Town Forest: Removal of the tree stand will be postponed until spring.

Tucker-French: Trails Subcommittee members have helped restore damage done to the stone dam and retrieved the bench that someone threw in the water.

Old Business:

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

Richard volunteered to contact Mr. Murphy's heirs regarding obtaining an easement to access the town-owned lake front access to Country Pond from the private way to the residence.

Evy pointed out that the Commission might need to start monitoring the Sullivan property (north of Bayberry Pond) where a wetland has been restored.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Next meeting: Thursday, January 2, 6:45 pm at the library

Respectfully submitted, Linda Foss, Secretary