

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission Minutes Thursday July 5, 2018

Attendance: Members; Ken Oelberger, Tom Gorrill, Ingrid Mroz, Joss Coggeshall; Also: Terry Brckett (CEO PB), Anita Siegenthaler (FOSG), Alison England (St. George School), Tammy Wiley (SB).

Minutes: The minutes of June 7 were accepted as written.

Old Business

Solar: The web access has been improved with a new link for monitoring. The photovoltaic system at the transfer station has produced more power than the town has used and the power not used will be “banked” to use next winter when there is less sunlight.

Stream Restoration: Alison England, St. George School science teacher, presented material about the students' studies of the marsh and the alewives return where there had been a run of the fish. The students connected to the town and the importance of contributing to the town. This has been consistent with the goals at school and real life experience. The reflections of the students are quite poignant. This is a project that really mattered to them. The students have measured water levels in and through the culvert. When there were very high tides they determined levels higher than 10.3 ft. would have water flowing into the marsh. Salinity has been measured and a digital salinity meter is being made and will keep track of the levels which will be important for egg hatching. The 6th grade studied invasive species and created a map which is again a meaningful experience for them and useful for the town.

The blog is “8th grade stream restoration alewife project”

Education: Two events are scheduled. Clamming with Brian Beal on August 9th at 7PM and Invasive Plants Walk & Talk with Nancy Olmstead on September 15th at 10AM co-sponsored with GRLT.

Invasives: Ingrid reports there is a good amount of mapping of invasives to be done, goals will be reviewed and strategies developed.

Footpaths: Tom is working on signs and a new one will be installed indicating the beginning of the Jones Brook Trail on the east side of Rt. 131. There will be some blazing done to better designate the trails, primarily on the Jones Brook Trail. A source of free granite stepping stones has been located with the help of GRLT. These will be used for “bog bridging” in place of wood. The need for Trail Brochures was discussed as it is difficult to maintain a supply at the trail heads. GRLT is moving away from providing brochures as new technology takes over.

Land Trust Coordination: Bamford Preserve, there will be a bridge over a stream and there are plans for parking lot implementation. Tanglewood crew will work on the trail. Meadow Brook Preserve, MCHT has three documents for review by the town, in regard to the transfer of the property to the Town. The process to apply for MOHF grants to fund the parking and trail work will begin this month for the Fall round of grants. Clark Island, an information/fund raising event is planned for July 12th and an explorative walk is scheduled for August 19th (fully booked).

New Business

Meeting Times: The new meeting times requested by SB were discussed. The CC recommends continuing meeting at 4pm and would accommodate any public requests for a special meeting at a more convenient time.

Planning Board: Terry permitted the bridge on the Bamford Property.

Select Board: Tammy invited all members to the July 23rd meeting of all town committees

CC meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM

Respectfully submitted by Joss Coggeshall