

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday June 7, 2018

Attendance: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, Tom Gorrill, and Suzanne Hall; Also: Anita Siegenthaler (FOSG), Terry Brackett (CEO, PB), Tammy Willey (SB) and John Knuerr (volunteer).

Announcements: none

Modifications to Agenda: none

Minutes: Motion to approve May minutes made by Dan. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Invasives: (Ingrid)

- Tested mobile app for invasives on Fort Point trail. Identified three invasives; Himalayan Jewel weed, Multiflora Rose and Honeysuckle. Brown tail moth caterpillar found and reported.
- School mapping project for Ripley Creek will likely be next year.
- Working on public outreach in the Spring. Possible interview for the Dragon.
- Brent will recommend a lead for the “walk and talk” on invasive plants planned in September. Fort Point was selected as the location.
- Joss: emerald ash borer found in Maine on May 22. This poses a major threat to Maine’s ash trees.

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Trail cleanup on May 5th went well.
- Jones Brook bridge needs extra bracing.
- Brent: Fort Point bridge will be evaluated for repair.
- Will look into using granite slabs as a more permanent substitute for wooden bog bridging of small streams and wet areas. Can also be used to divert water from trails (bars).
- Will work on trail signs using the new router kit.
- Will apply wood chips to part of Fort Point trail to keep out overgrowth.
- Town Forest trail needs reblazing.
- School Trail: Nature boxes need information, will work with school, most likely next school year project.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken)

- Meadowbrook: The management plan was submitted by MCHT to MNRCP. Comments were received and are being addressed.
- Clark Island: Another open house is scheduled for August 19th from 11-2. May already be over the limit for participants.

- High Island: MCHT will offer trips on St. George Days if tides conditions permit.
- Bamford: Amanda working on permit for bridge and waiting for Anne Cox to complete her proposal for the parking lot access to the trail.

Education Committee: (Suzanne)

- Clamming: Dr. Brian Beal of the Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research & Education has agreed to talk sometime in August. Working out details and will meet the Town Newsletter deadline.

Steam Restoration: (Joss/Dan)

- Allison's class plans to do a salinity survey. They are assembling salinity meters to use in the project.
- Alewife stocking: DMR not stocking this year.
- Joss renewed the license to transfer fish over the dam.
- Stream survey results: A high tide of 10.3 ft will top the dam. This occurs up to 20 times a month and with increasing sea level this will occur even more often. Therefore, increased salinity of the marsh is likely, which will have a detrimental effect on alewife reproduction. However, it also means that with the new culvert (restoring more natural conditions) alewife access to the marsh is increasing. Restoring the dam to its original height with an assess gate would solve both problems but is unlikely to be approved.

Website update: (Tom) Working on putting a link on the home page to trail maps.

New Business

July/August Newsletter: (Ken) Walk and Talk preview and clamming talk.

Select Board Update: (Tammy)

- July 23rd meeting for all committees and boards. Ken will attend.
- Ingrid, Suzanne and Joss agreed to seek another term on the CC. Ken will contact Ryan.
- SB strongly suggests that all Town committees and boards meet no earlier than 6PM to allow more public participation. This may lead to fewer volunteers to serve on boards and committees.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Application for a bridge on the Bamford property was received.

Motion to adjourn by Joss. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo