

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday December 6, 2018

Attendance: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, Tom Gorrill, and Suzanne Hall; Also: Terry Brackett, Anita Siegenthaler and John McIlwain

Announcements: none

Modifications to Agenda: Update sent before meeting.

Minutes: Motion to approve November minutes made by Dan. Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Invasives: (Ingrid) Ingrid presented an overview of the workgroup's CC Invasive Plant Initiative goals for 2019. After, discussion the CC reached consensus on the goal to initiate mapping of invasives on CC members land.

See attached report on Invasives meeting held on Oct. 22nd

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Planks repaired on bog bridging. Town approved felling of a tree for use in future bridgework.
- Meadowbrook: Kick-off meeting held on November 26th at St. George School. Parking lot layout and tree removal defined on November 30th. Tim Polky approved curb cut for parking lot. Permit forthcoming. Will meet on December 14th for trail layout. School would like input on trail layout (identifying special features of interest).

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken)

- Clark Island: Craginair Inn is being sold. Ken will contact MCHT to work with new owners on potential parking accommodations.
- Bamford: Parking lot construction permit was issued.
- Meadowbrook: Grant proposal was approved by Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for trail development. A contract was signed by Tim Polky and will be sent to the State (\$6 k grant with matching \$6k from Town). RFP for parking lot ready to go out for bid.

Education Committee: (Suzanne)

- Wildlife: Kirk's talk on "Winter Wildlife on the St. George Peninsula" scheduled for January 24th at 7 PM.

Steam Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- Restocking will not be approved if salinity in the marsh is too high. St. George students will collect salinity data next year.

- St. George students may construct a small wooden fish ladder. CC may be able to fund the project.

Website update: (Tom) Tom will meet with Beth to discuss updates.

New Business

2019 Action Plan: (Ken) Tabled until next meeting.

Community Solar: (John McIlwain) John asked if the CC will support a community solar farm on private or Town land through a nonprofit entity. CC is willing to support, through education, community solar projects options in St. George. However, we must wait until bill(s) are proposed in the new State congress.

FY-20 Budget: (Ken) Motion by Ken to submit a CC budget of \$3850 contingent on a carryover of unspent Meadowbrook Preserve funds from FY-19. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously.

Jan/Feb Newsletter: (Ken) Suzanne will submit an announcement for the January talk and Ken will include the Meadowbrook grant. Need inputs by next Wednesday.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing new to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo

St. George Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Initiative

2019

Members of the St. George Conservation Commission meet with St. George School teachers to develop strategies to lead a Town effort to reduce the impact of invasive plants.

Invasive Plants Project:

- Learn what plants are invasive and why they are a problem. (ongoing)
- Explore home, neighborhood, town properties, land trusts and Blueberry Cove for presence of invasive plants. (on-going)
- Talk to friends and colleagues about invasive plants. (on-going)
- What are invasive plants? Why a problem? What can be done? How are invasive plants removed properly? How are invasive plants disposed? What are native alternatives? (ongoing)
- Offer Invasive Plant Program. (spring, 2019).
- Work with St. George School teachers to engage students in the study of invasive plants, their impact, and strategies for reduction of invasive plants in St. George. (2019)
- Network with leaders from Harpswell, Falmouth, etc. who are engaged in reducing the presence of invasive plants in their towns. (ongoing)
- Select "catchy" slogan from those developed by St. George students. (2019)
- Seek project support from land trusts, state and federal agencies. (ongoing)

Map Invasive Plants:

- Map invasive plants on public lands (school, playing fields, library, town office, town and conservation protected lands etc.) and along roads using the MNAP web based Map Invasives application. (ongoing)
- Select town property to map invasive plants. (2019)
- Map invasives on selected town property. (2019)
- Initiate mapping of invasives on conservation commission members land. (2019)
- Work with St. George students on a short movie on the town's invasives initiative specifically highlighting their body of work in 2018 including creation and selection of town slogan. (2019)
- Engage St. George students as available to assist with the selection and mapping of a town property. (2019)
- Assess feasibility of engaging Blueberry Cove campers in mapping, removal, disposal of invasive plants and replanting with native plants as determined by the Director of Blueberry Cove Camp. (ongoing)
- Assess feasibility of engaging Tanglewood in assisting with mapping, removal, disposal of invasive plants and replanting with native plants. (ongoing)

Create Community Awareness

- Post maps on invasive plants in public spaces. (ongoing)
School, Ripley Creek, Fort Point (2019)
- Provide information on invasive plants in public spaces. (2019)
Identification: Focusing on local invasive plants that are most destructive, harmful, and/or most likely to spread.

Proper Removal:

Proper Disposal:

Planting/Replanting: Native Alternatives

- Contact St. George Dragon, Free Press, etc. for PR on Invasive Plants Initiative. (2019)
- Provide presentations by St. George students/Conservation Commission to public officials and groups (Conservation Commission, Select Board, Planning Board, School Board etc.) showing location of invasive plants on public lands. (ongoing)
- Organize community work days to remove invasive plants from public lands.(2019)
- Secure Town maintenance staff in support of removing invasive plants.
- Encourage landowners to remove invasive plants and replace with native plants. (ongoing)
- Network with private nurseries and public agencies for support in replacing invasive plants with native plants. (2019,ongoing)
- Celebrate success.

Helpful Links

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2536e/>

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/imap.htm

10-22-2018