

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday August 1, 2019

Attendance: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, and Tom Gorrill; Also: Bill Zierden, John McIlwain, Anita Siegenthaler (FoSG), John Meyer, Dale Pierson (Pierson Nursery), Tammy Willey (SB), and Terry Brackett (CEO).

Announcements: None

Modifications to Agenda: None

Minutes: Motion by Ingrid to approve June minutes. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Laminated tick notices to be posted on all town trails.
- Meadow brook: Parking lot construction has begun. Final tree removal for sight line to be completed.
- Meadow brook: Permit filed for two stream crossings.
- Meadow brook: Trail walk with abutter representatives took place last Saturday morning, Trail location was acceptable.
- Meadow brook: Looking into extending trail to transfer station and Boy Scout land.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Bamford: Kiosk completed.

Invasives: (Ingrid)

Event on June 8th attended by about thirty people and was well received. Thank you Ryan, Amanda and Dale for giving an excellent presentation.

Climate Change:

A Climate to Thrive (Bill) Presented the accomplishments of the nonprofit on Mount Desert Island.

- Recommended alternative energy (e.g., Solar), transportation improvements (e.g., EV charging stations), building efficiency (e.g., LED lighting, weatherizing/insulation), food systems (e.g., composing, farmers' market), zero waste (e.g., bans on plastic bags), and public outreach (e.g., lectures and other events).
- Showed ACTT's history of organization and fund raising from grassroots to acquiring funds of over \$400,000 in a four year period.
- His suggestions are to look for funds from the State Office of Innovation (still being formed), have a solar fair (like we had a few years ago), educate and involve youth in climate issues (Herring Gut and St George school).
- The CC is already doing many of his suggestions but will discuss additional projects.

Sea Level Rise (Dan) Presented the work by the Island Institute from a meeting held on July 24th with Dan representing the CC and Richard Bates representing the SB.

- Sea level is projected to rise by as much as two feet in the next twenty years. The Nature Conservancy has compiled data estimating the effect of flooding on coastal Maine towns. With a two foot rise several St. George roads may flood isolating many households and may cost \$1.5 million to remediate (see <http://maps.coastalresilience.org> for details).
- By concentrating on the cost of future flooding rather than the causes, the Island Institute believes that the public will accept that action must be taken soon.
- They invited CC members to attend a meeting on August 29th at 4PM at the Town office to discuss public reach out approaches (e.g., lectures, sea level measuring projects for school kids).

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

The new staff at DMR may be open to Alewife stocking.

Resource Maps: (Dan) Nothing new but will contact Brent

Forest Management Plan: (Joss)

- Will check with the forester who worked on the 2004 plan to determine the necessary updates.

Education Committee:

- Working on topics for Fall and 2020. SLR and Climate change suggested.

New Business

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Asked if CC could promote the PACE program somehow. Tammy will contact CDC to see if they are interested.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

September/October Newsletter: (Ken) August 15th due date.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo