

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday November 7, 2019

Attendance: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz (on phone), and Tom Gorrill; Also: Annette Naegel (GRLT), John McIlwain, Dale Pierson (Pierson Nursery), Tammy Willey (SB) and Terry Brackett (CEO).

Announcements: None

Modifications to Agenda: None

Minutes: Motion by Joss to approve September minutes. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously. Motion by Tom to approve October minutes as amended. Seconded by Ken. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Tom recommended that we hire a consultant to assess future work on the trail and consider making it ADA accessible. **Motion by Tom:** Hire a consultant for a one day site walk at a cost of \$278. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously. Pending Ken passing it by Tim Polky, a date of November 15th was set.
- Other work: All trails were cleaned up after the last two wind storms except for the Nature trail. Working on getting stepping stones from quarry. Ken and Tom will work on getting a road sign for Meadow Brook. Signs were posted alerting people of hunting season and Jones Brook trail was posted closed.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken/Annette).

- Long Cove: Annette recapped the cooperation since 2004 between GRLT and CC in focusing on Long Cove and Jones Brook as “Special Places”. GRLT has talked to landholders in the area and agreements are pending. CC can offer a public forum to discuss the resource value of these “Special Places”. To encourage land owner participation we can bring in land owners who have agreed to conservation easements to speak. The trails we have already developed are an invaluable tool for educating the public on the importance of these conservation efforts.
- Trail Openings: Ribbon cutting ceremonies will be held at Bamford at 1 PM and Meadow Brook at 3 PM on November 10th. Members are encouraged to help with setup, parking and shuttling participants from Bamford to Meadow Brook.

Invasives: Tabled until next meeting.

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Sea Level Rise: Susan Bates has published an excellent article on SLR in the Dragon. Included was part of Dan’s written interview with Susan as a representative of the CC.
- Solar: Ken and Dan met with Amy Palmer’s 8th grade robotics class. They may propose a solar array project for the school and wanted our input based on our success in installing

a Town solar array at the Transfer Station. Their roof orientation will only allow a small array but this can be expanded by using other town building roofs and/or roofs on future school buildings that are being planned.

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- School Projects: Improvements to salinity monitoring of the marsh are progressing. When completed, more monitoring locations will be in place with remote monitoring.
- Dam project: Raising the dam would raise the marsh to its former level, which would decrease the salinity and mitigate the effect of sea level rise and surges. DMR seems open to the possibility of restoring the dam to its original height but there are many obstacles to this effort.

Forest Management Plan: (Joss)

- Looking at survey maps to identify boundary survey pins. Overall the Plan is up to date but may look at changes in tree growth.

Education Committee:

- Postponed until next meeting. Possible topics: Solar fair, renewable energy, invasives, Long Cove conservation and Sea Level Rise/Climate Change.

New Business

Website Update (Tom)

- CC members will bring “wish list” to next meeting. Tom and Ken will meet with Tara to work out details.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Nothing to report.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo