

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday December 5, 2019

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

Announcements: Newsletter info due by December 17th. Anita will be stepping back on her responsibilities at Friends of St. George and asked for recommendations for a new PR person.

Modifications to Agenda: News letter

Minutes: Motion by Tom to approve November minutes. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Erin Amadon (trail consultant) assessed Fort Point trail with CC members on November 15th. The estimate for recommended improvements was discussed. **Motion by Tom:** to accept “Town 4 Trails” worklog estimate for the Fort Point trail of \$1213.98. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously. Tom discussed grant strategy with Doug Beck (Director of Recreational Trail Program with Bureau of Parks and Land). Doug recommended that we get a professional design and link the Town’s proposal with the State. Doug also suggested that we consider making the trail ABA (universal access) compliant (not to be confused with ADA) and that he could work with us for funding. We decided to ask Erin for a quote that included making the trail ABA (universal access) compliant and that would give us options as we go forward. The Town will likely need to have a 20% match for the grant and therefore must submit a budget proposal for public review in the May 2020 town meeting. Ken and Tom will attend next SB meeting to get approval for a “sole source” waiver because the estimate is over \$1000.
- Other work: All trails were cleaned up. A leaning tree was removed from the Nature trail. The parking lots for Meadow Brook and Bamford were plowed.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken/Annette).

- Bamford: Amanda will plan an event for Bamford for some time in February.
- Meadow Brook: Working on signage.
- School Trail: Working on educational plan for the trail.

Invasives: John not here. Tabled until next meeting.

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Sea Level Rise: Talk on November 14th was attended by over 100 people. Four speakers discussed the science, predictions and work by other towns. Vinalhaven is particularly vulnerable because its downtown is particularly vulnerable to SLR. An ad hoc committee is in the process of being approved by the SB. When formed, this committee will study

the work by other towns and make recommendations. A group of likely members (including Dan) for the SLR ad hoc Committee has already met on November 25th and will meet again on December 16th. A mission statement was discussed to submit to the SB.

- Solar: Nothing new

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- Dam project: Reconstructing the dam would raise the marsh about four feet 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. Dan recommended that Joss identify the stakeholders and do a cost/benefit analysis of raising the marsh level.

Forest Management Plan: (Joss)

- Still 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: (Ingrid)

- Possible topics: Solar fair, renewable energy, invasives (Ryan), forest pests and climate change, use of chemicals that can affect the environment, home insulation and weather proofing, and additional SLR talks. Ingrid will work with Dale on an Earth Day event.

New Business

Website Update (Tom)

- CC members will bring “wish list” to next meeting.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo