

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday January 9, 2020

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

Announcements: Annual MACC conference will be held on May 9, 2020 in Brunswick in the Morrell Meeting Room at Curtis Memorial Library.

Modifications to Agenda: None

Minutes: Motion by Joss to approve December minutes as amended . Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: The Select Board approved a sole source waiver for the “Town 4 Trail Services” bid to assess the trail for Universal Access (UA). The estimate is \$1856.70, which is greater than the non-UA estimate for \$1213.98 recommended at the last CC meeting. The next steps are to determine the property boundaries and to work out other issues including meeting the average grade requirements for UA, bridge location and the presence of an old homestead. Doug Beck (Director of Recreational Trail Program with Bureau of Parks and Land) is willing to come down and look at the trail. “Town 4 Trail Services” and Doug are discussing the potential to tie this project to the State Land. Doug thinks that the project may be eligible for a Land and Water grant.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Bamford: Amanda will plan an event for early afternoon on February 15th. Included is instruction on pruning (using the apple trees), a bonfire and refreshments.
- School Trail: Alison is working on an educational plan for the trail with Rebecca Jacobs (Knox-Lincoln Soil Conservation District). The results can also be used for the Meadowbrook trail.

Website Update (Tom/Ken)

- Discussed improvements to the CC site by adding links to trails wherever trails are mentioned. Add to home page under “Discover St. George.”
- Add CC’s own NEWS site.
- Prepare new and review existing content for all topics on the CC site.

Updates can be done by Ken and Tom and sent to the CC members for comments. All updates need to be approved by the website administrator before changes can be applied. John Meyer volunteered to help with the website changes.

Invasives: (John)

- Will order 100 more brochures
- Preparing a one page handout with helpful information such as websites
- Will add information to Town Newsletter

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Sea Level Rise: Next ad hoc committee meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 3PM in the large meeting room.
- Solar: Ken and Joss will attend a session on the future of municipal and residential solar energy in Maine on January 14th at 11:30 am in Fairfield.

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- Joss pointed out some additional benefits to restoring alewife population. Although the adult fish are important (300-500 per acre), the enormous number of eggs and fry provide a food source for the entire ecosystem. The educational value to the school has already proven to be a great value and will continue to be as restoration project advances.
- CC members agreed to “decouple” stream bank improvements (e.g., removing invasives) from the other projects. Therefore, we can go ahead with contacting Anne Cox for her recommendations.

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)

- Additional topics: microgrids and LED street lighting.
- Ingrid worked with Dale on an Earth Day event. The actual date can be flexible. Considering having two speakers to talk on such topics as gardening/lawn challenges, native vs nonnative planting, use of chemicals and irrigation techniques. They will meet again in two weeks.

New Business

Resource Maps: Brent will present draft update for review during next meeting.

FY21 Budget: (Ken)

- After discussion: Motion by Ken for a budget of \$3350 for ongoing programs plus 20% of the estimate for the Fort Point trail. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously.(Note: 20% match of the estimated cost of \$85k is \$ 17.5k)

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo