

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday March 12, 2020

Attendance: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, and John Knuerr (given voting privileges for this meeting); Also: Anita Siegenthaler (FoSG), John Meyer, John McIlwain, and Terry Brackett (CEO).

Announcements: Annual report submitted.

Modifications to Agenda: Discuss status of future meetings.

Minutes: Motion by Joss to approve February minutes as amended. Seconded by John K.. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Ken for Tom)

- Fort Point: "Town 4 Trail Services" report submitted and reviewed by CC members. The estimates for the trail upgrade and Universal Access were submitted to the SB. The lower estimate that did not include UA was approved. We will look into cost saving measures (e.g., a lower cost bridge) to see if UA can be achieved. Will look into donations to a GRLT fund as another revenue source. A site meeting has been scheduled with RTP administration (D Beck) on March 31st.
- Trail Project Days: Will have volunteer projects this spring (such as laying stepping stones and bridge reinforcement work).

Budget: (Ken).

- \$20,850 for CC was approved. This includes the \$17,500 approved by the Select Board and Budget Committee for the Fort Point trail improvements as the town 20% match for RTP grant submission.
- A table may be set up to explain the Fort Point project on the Monday before Town Meeting. Anita recommended having a notice on the Town website as well a week before the Town meeting on the budget proposal.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Bamford: The pruning education and workday event on February 15th was included in the Town Newsletter.
- Meadow Brook: Interim report submitted. Final report due in September
- Conservation Easements: Two easements were established on Long Cove by GRLT.
- Clark Island: Closing on the property by MCHT is planned in April. Parking area on Craignair Inn property is still being worked on.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Earth Day Event: Due to the pandemic, group activities in April are in question. Blueberry Cove will not be available as a location. However, the program with Kelly Corbin is still on track.
- Solar Program: Investigating a solar fair for the Fall. The solar committee is communicating but a meeting may be delayed.

Invasives (John K.)

- I-mapping of School Trail and playing field planned.
- Workshop training on using imap will be scheduled when pandemic restrictions permit.
- Updating website and looking into less expensive brochures.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- Everyone submitted a general outline for the content of their responsible topic. All agreed to send John more specific content including links this month. John assured everyone that future modifications can be made fairly easily.

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Sea Level Rise: A meeting to evaluate the Town's resiliency to SLR was held on February 29th at 9 AM in the Fire Station meeting room. About 20 "essential" participants came and answered most of the questions on the checklist. A report is forthcoming.
- CDC Solar Committee: John M. invited CC members to attend their last meeting on March 2nd. They discussed a Rockland project and other options. A minimum of 25 acres is necessary to attract a big solar firm that can offer options like PPA's. ReVision is scheduled to talk at their next meeting.

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- Mike Burke (Interfluve): Our project is probably too small for funding. The smallest project so far is around 400 acres and ours is 92. Karen Wilson may come down to look and provide advise .

New Business

Resource Maps:

- Met with Brent today at 9 AM at the GRLT office in Rockland. CC compared new maps with existing and made suggestions. Terry asked us to double check wetland data with Brent to see if it was up to date.

Associate Members: (Ken) Discussed with Richard Bates the possibility of having associate CC members. Although the State recognizes associate members a change to the Town charter may be necessary. The consensus of the CC was that we have several volunteers who have made significant contributions and would benefit from this recognition. Ken will pursue this option even if it will take two years to accomplish.

Meeting Status: (Ingrid) Because of the pandemic all CC and committee meetings will be subject to cancellation or rescheduling. Remote meeting apps may be used for committees that don't need public notice.

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