

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday February 6, 2020

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

Announcements:

- Talk on Emerald Ash Borer at Rockport Opera House on February 10th at 6:30 PM.
- Newsletter items due by February 15th.
- Meadow Brook project completion extended to June 2020 and report deadline extended to September 2020.
- Budget review scheduled with Select Board February 10th at 7PM.

Modifications to Agenda: None

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

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: "Town 4 Trail Services" report on the trail will be ready in about a week with a more accurate cost estimate. The trail layout is probably not practical for Universal Access (UA). Doug Beck (Director of Recreational Trail Program with Bureau of Parks and Land) is aware of this assessment.
- Trail Cleanup Days: Volunteers are keeping the trails clean therefore we should consider having project days (such as laying stepping stones) instead.
- Tom is working on more signs.
- Ken: Contacted Mark Deroche about putting Fort Point Historic Site on the State Parks and Historic Site website.
- Contacted Tim about keeping the trail head parking lots cleared of snow.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Bamford: Showed CC the poster advertising the event for on February 15th. Included is instruction on pruning (Ryan has volunteered), a bonfire and refreshments (Amanda will handle).
- MCHT is giving CC over \$4000 of left over stewardship money for Meadow Brook that will be put in CC reserve fund.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- John presented a list of all the proposed changes. He added sections that mirrored the topics in the CC agendas and encouraged CC members to review their respective sections and send him a Word doc with suggestions before the next meeting.

Education: (Ingrid/Dale)

- Earth Day Event: CC agreed to have Kelly Corbin (an organic landscaping professional) speak. The talk will be on alternative (ecofriendly) approaches to lawn and garden care.

The date and place still needs to be worked out. Possible locations are the fire station meeting room or Blueberry Cove.

- Solar Event: Ingrid will have a working group meeting soon. Ken suggested inviting people who were involved with the Solar Fair several years ago.

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Sea Level Rise: A meeting to evaluate the Town's resiliency to SLR is scheduled for February 29th at 9 AM in the Fire Station meeting room. About 20 "essential" participants are invited, however, the public is invited to observe.
- Solar: Ken attended a session on the future of municipal and residential solar energy in Maine on January 14th in Fairfield. The video and slideshow are available on line at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments website (kvog.org).
- CDC Solar Committee: John M. invited CC members to attend their next meeting on March 2nd from 4:30 to 5:30.

Stream Restoration: (Joss/Dan).

- Contacted Sean Ledwin (Director, Sea-Run Fisheries Division, Dept. of Marine Resources) on alewife stocking in the marsh. His response was not encouraging. However, he is interested in monitoring smelt along with CC and the school.
- Dam repair: Still planning to meet with Mike Burke (Interfluve) on the cost and available restoration money (from a Chevron settlement). Other approaches for restoration is that a higher dam will help protect the marsh from seawater intrusion due to sea level rise and the fire department needs a reliable source of freshwater to protect the Town.

New Business

Land Conservation: (Ken) Old Woods Farm property is available for purchase. The critical issue remains that there is no public access.

Annual Report: (Ken) Requested submissions by February 15th.

Resource Maps: Brent will present draft update for review during next meeting (March 12th).

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Nothing to report

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo