

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday June 4, 2020

Attendance: Via Zoom: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, Ryan LeShane, John Knuerr, and Tom Gorrill; Also: John Meyer, John McIlwain, and Terry Brackett (CEO).

Announcements:

- Merryspring talk on invasives; June 9th at noon.
- Adeline McPhail (high school student at Camden Hills) okayed by CC to put recycling posters on trail kiosks.

Modifications to Agenda: Add Book Boxes.

Minutes: Motion by Ingrid to approve May minutes. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point Improvement: Doug Beck (RTP administration) walked the trail and indicated that there are two possible grant opportunities. Tom will set up a strategy meeting and arrange a follow up meeting with Doug. Will delay starting grant application until SB meets relative to revised town budget to discuss matching funds..
- Weekly work trips: Fort Point; Stabilized Bridge and repaired bog bridging. Meadowbrook : Spread gravel on the trail. Will finish at next work day.
- Tom reported that he already had one response to the Newsletter request for volunteers.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Clark Island: Closing this month. Parking lot at Craignair nearly complete.
- Roaring Spout: No word on cleanup progress.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Solar Program: The Solar Committee had a zoom meeting on May 11th and will meet on June 30th. October 1st and 3rd dates set (no rain dates) for evening lecture and Solar Fair. Kendra Jo Grindle (Island Institute) will speak along with a government representative to be determined. A panel with others will be decided in the future. Richard Bates may discuss the decision not to assess solar arrays. The major solar installers have agreed to attend and several home owners have agreed to show their solar installations. Ryan will show Blueberry Cove's future solar greenhouse. St. George CDC has agreed to cosponsor the event. Net Zero Homes will also attend.

Invasives (John K.)

- Will add videos to the website from Nancy Olmstead's Zoom workshops.
- Proposed linking articles in the St. George Journal to the Town Newsletter.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- Good progress on all the updates. Thanks to our beta testers and special thanks to John Meyer for his work on this.
- Went through the checklist document and assigned next tasks.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise: Nothing new to report.

Solar:

- Maine Climate Council: A Zoom meeting on May 28th gives an overview of the work being done by six workgroups that are developing goals and strategies to be included in a report due on December 1, 2020. The results will be relevant to CC and the Town. View meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycS8EjrSMPI&feature=youtu.be>
- Community Solar: CDC Community Solar Committee didn't meet this week but ReVision has announced new community solar opportunities. Solar Farms for individual investors and small businesses are available now. These are "share" based and require the same upfront investment as rooftop solar arrays on private homes but at a somewhat higher cost (~10%). In 2021 Revision will also offer "subscription" based farms that require no investment but will require a power purchase agreement of some sort to purchase electricity from the farm for a predetermined period for a fixed price (usually 10% lower than CMP standard). Both options should be presented at the Solar Fair in October. Other vendors may offer farms by then. ReVision Zoom meeting here: <https://www.revisionenergy.com/upcoming-events/>

Resource Maps: Tax Property data based on 2019 is available. Town office indicates that the 2020 update has not been completed and that there is very little change year to year. We will use the 2019 data and start the effort to update the map. .

New Business

Book Boxes: (Ken)

- CC agreed to Library and Parks & Rec request to putting a "Book Box" at the Fort Point Kiosk.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here. Ryan and John K. agreed to renew their CC membership.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo