

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday July 2, 2020

Attendance: Via Zoom: Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, Ryan LeShane, and Tom Gorrill; Also: Anita Siegenthaler, John Meyer, John McIlwain, and Tammy Willey (SB).

Announcements: July 8th workshop by Recreational Trails Program

Modifications to Agenda: 1. Budget Status, 2. Election of Officers, 3. Meadowbrook Grant

Minutes: Motion by Ingrid to approve May minutes as amended. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Meadowbrook: Finished spreading gravel, cleared site lines along the road , checked stake boundaries and laid most of stepping stones
- Future Weekly Work Trips: Finish stepping stones at Meadow Brook, start stepping stones on Town Forest Trail. Will mow Ft. Point in Fall.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Clark Island: MCHT closed on property. Parking lot at Craignair complete for eight spaces. Will work on developing trails next.
- GRLT: Nothing new. No replacement for Brent West.
- Meadow Brook grant extension requested for six months. Waiting to hear back.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Solar Program: The Solar Committee had a zoom meeting 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 Seth Berry. A panel with Ann Matlack, Richard Bates and others will answer questions after the talks. A Zoom conference will be arranged if a physical meeting is not possible. Outdoor activities will be available with Solar vendors. Visits to homeowners will be determined closer to the October 3rd date. Members of the committee are proceeding with preparing promotional activities but will not release until August.

Invasives (John K.) Not here

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- Updated site rolled out on June 11th and is getting many positive comments.
- Added slideshow and will add more pictures when submitted. Making improvements to videos.

Climate Change: (Dan) Maine Climate Council had June 17th and 18th Zoom meetings.
Sea Level Rise:

- The Council proposes that the State will act as a clearinghouse for communities applying for federal grants. These grants will fund any resiliency projects to address SLR impacts on town infrastructure. No State money will be directly given to towns for these projects but the Council will propose helping towns with part of matching requirements.
- The Select Board requested that we participate in the Penobscot Bay *Collaborating Towards Climate Solutions Project*. Dan agreed to be the CC representative.

Solar:

- Climate Council: An 80% reduction of emissions by 2050 means that proposed science based legislation will likely lead to more large solar arrays in Maine. However, there is no proposal from the Council at this time for direct State funding of rooftop arrays as seen in the past.
- Community Solar: Many solar farm projects are in the works and the Solar Fair will encourage St. George residents to participate either as subscribers or owners.

Resource Maps: (Dan)

- Ken and Dan are reviewing Tax Property data.
- Will contact Anne Cox to get Planning Board input on the updates.

New Business

Budget Status: (Ken)

- Meadow Brook fund from MCHT of \$4750 remains untouched.
- Maine Outdoor Heritage fund for Meadow Brook of \$6000 was used for stone.. \$5700 remains, primarily for the teacher stipends and parking lot .
- General fund has \$5600 that has been requested to be rolled over into the next budget year.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Funds will likely be rolled over when a Town Meeting can be safely held.

CC Officer Elections: (Ken)

- Ken nominated for Chair by Tom. Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.
- Dan nominated for Secretary by Tom. Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo