

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday August 6, 2020

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

Announcements: Webinar tomorrow at 10:30 AM on the Maine Climate Council (Coastal and Marine Workgroup).

Modifications to Agenda: Budget Status update.

Minutes: Motion by Ken to approve last month's minutes as amended. Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Zoom meeting with Doug Beck on July 9th. The best funding strategy is to link the Universal Access (UA) trail work with the State Park to get up to \$120k RTP grant with a 20% match by the Town. Some of the 20% can be labor or donated supplies. Other grant options will require a 50% match.
- Weekly Work Trips: July 9th, 16th, 30th, and August 6th at Meadow Brook, Town Forest, and finished Fort Point bridge.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Clark Island: Amanda is working on providing specific trail and boundary data for our maps.
- GRLT: Nothing new.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Solar Program: The Solar Committee had a Zoom meeting today at 3 PM. 1. Lecture changed to Zoom webinar on October 1st with Kendra Jo Grindle (Island Institute) along with Seth Berry. A panel with Ann Matlack and others will answer questions after the talks. 2. Home tours were canceled. Will look into having home owners post pictures and testimonials on CC website. 3. Solar Fair on October 3rd canceled. Started planning for a vendor webinar on November 12th to replace the fair. Members of the committee are proceeding with preparing promotional activities.

Invasives (John K.)

- Offered iPhone App on invasives to interested CC members.
- Properties for future study include the school (contact Allison), the playing field and CC member land.

- Anita asked if we could look into removing Japanese knotweed on sides of some town roads and Rt 131.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- Waiting on Amanda for Clark Island update for trails section.
- Will work with Dan on Solar updates (e.g., homeowner testimonials).

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise:

- On July 29th Richard Bates and Dan participated in the Penobscot Bay *Collaborating Towards Climate Solutions Project* with Parker Gassett and Esperanza Stancioff (Maine Sea Grant). We answered questions about Town activities on climate change. This is a research project by Climate Adaptation Providers Network (in concert with U. Maine, Maine Sea Grant and Bowdoin College). Their goal is to improve communication between coastal communities and to provide technical assistance. We are in their Western Penobscot Bay region and we agreed to meet with other communities in this region.
- Richard has received the notes from the Resiliency Checklist meeting last February. He and the ad hoc SLR committee will review and summarize. Documents will be posted to the website.
- I agreed to review documents on the Water District wells to assess vulnerability to saltwater intrusion from SLR.

Solar:

- Dirigo Solar LLC and BNRG Renewables will invest over \$100M over the next two years on large scale farms in Maine that will generate enough power for over 70k homes. The projects are generally related to municipal PPAs but most of the energy will be purchased by CMP to reduce the cost of their standard offer to all their customers. This may have an impact on smaller solar farms competitiveness but is seen as a positive step to reducing reliance on carbon based electrical suppliers.
- Community Solar: The Solar Committee will continue to promote all forms of solar arrays to the community through webinars and our website.

Resource Maps: (Dan)

- Tax Property data for Protected Lands Map is ready.
- Working on Clark Island updates.
- Anne Cox submitted maps to the Planning Board and we have not received any changes.

New Business

Budget Status: (Ken)

- SB will carry over approximately \$5400 from the FY-20 budget. An additional \$3850 is proposed for FY-21.
- Other funds: Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for Meadow Brook of \$6000, \$5100 remains.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Nothing new.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing new.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo