

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday November 5, 2020

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

Announcements: Town Newsletter: Nov. 14 deadline.

Modifications to Agenda: Meeting with Dick Pelletier

Minutes: Motion by Tom to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Joss. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Work trips: Oct. 22nd last work day. 17 total days for year. 11 different volunteers participated for 193.5 volunteer-hours. Next Spring we will identify wet spots for additional stone laying.
- Fort Point (Ken): SB appointed an ad hoc committee. They have met twice and will meet every two weeks. RFP's sent out and are due by Nov. 10th. A public meeting to discuss the project and the Town's contribution is tentatively planned for Dec. 3rd followed by a Special Town meeting. Doug Beck from BPL will attend the next ad hoc committee meeting to answer remaining questions. Donations were requested in the Town Newsletter and the Historical Society Newsletter to help defray Town expenses.
- Ken met with Paul Meinersmann (a St. George teacher and track coach) to discuss possible trail development near the Marsh.
- Clarke Island: Amanda (MCHT) is developing new trails on the west side.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Annette Naegel (GRLT) and Ken looked at and discussed the Haight property near the marsh that they want to put into conservation status.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Solar Program: The Oct 1st Webinar with Kendra Jo Grindle (Island Institute) along with Seth Berry went very well. 54 registered and 34 attended the live webinar. The recorded webinar is posted on the website and everyone who registered was notified.
- Solar Thursday- "Meet the Vendors" is set for Nov. 12th. Parker Gassett (Maine Sea Grant) will host along with Dan. Sam Zuckerman (Maine Solar Solutions) and Brandon Mazur (ReVision Energy) will speak. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A session and a survey to gather information for future webinars/lectures.

- Earth Day: It was agreed that the event that had to be cancelled “Gardening for a Better Planet” should be considered for next Earth Day. Ingrid will contact Kelly Corbin for availability.

Invasives (John K.) CC members agreed that John can add invasive pests to the web page and suggest topics and lecturers on pests to Ingrid for next Summer.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- CC members agreed that Ken can add the ad hoc Committee for the Fort Point Trail Project as its own topic on the CC home page.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise:

- ME Climate Council Webinar: Updates presented before finalizing report on Nov. 12th. Report will be submitted on Dec. 1st.
- Western Pen Bay Community Workshop: Esperanza Stancioff and Parker Gassett (Maine Sea Grant) led a zoom meeting on Nov. 5th with several town representatives. Richard Bates and Dan attended. Discussed current projects and recommended that towns join together for grants and to bring down the costs of the projects.

Solar:

- Nov. Solar Webinar: See Education above
- Dan suggested that a poster be placed at the Transfer Station advertising the Town Solar Array and promoting solar use. A draft poster was shared and will be submitted to the Solar Committee.

Resource Maps: (Ken, Dan)

- Ken and Dan met with GRLT on Oct. 21st to finalize the required updates.

New Business

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Nothing new.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo