

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday January 7, 2021

Attendance: Via Zoom: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz and Tom Gorrill; Also: John Meyer, Anita Siegenthaler (FoSG), Dale Pierson, Tammy Willey (SB) and Annette Naegel (GRLT).

Announcements: Town Newsletter inputs: Due by Jan. 15th.

Modifications to Agenda: Alewife project.

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

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- **Fort Point Ad Hoc Committee (Ken):**
 1. Held meetings on Dec 17th and Jan 7th. Abutter meeting brought up concerns of trash, trespassing onto their private property and illegal activities in parking lot.
 2. Next steps Boundary survey to determine property sign locations
 3. Select Board meeting on Monday to discuss issues and recommendations.
 4. Contact State with new issues and to recommend slowing down trail development.
 5. Will get input from broader community
- Diversity in Fort Point meadow: Joss asked to discuss whether to let alders move into the mowed area to allow more pollinators or to continue the current mowing practice. Annette pointed out a problem with ticks and obstruction of view caused by allowing alders. Invasives may also be inadvertently encouraged that are not good for pollinators. There may better locations. Ken suggested the Library meadow.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Annette: GRLT full-time trails manager being sought.
- Annette is willing to set up meeting(s) with other CCs in area. CC willing to meet with other nearby CC's to discuss common goals.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Next month need to address advertising for next lecture and will put "save the date" in the next newsletter.

Invasives (John K.) Not here

- Ken: John is working on "invasive bugs" for website.
- Federal regulations seem to be getting less strict. Joss: Quarantine in Maine for Emerald Ash Borer still in effect.

- Dale: Borer is at New Hampshire border and in Bar Harbor. Will affect Maine this Spring severely.

Website Update (Ken/John M.)

- Solar Page: Dan will provide additional links.
- Joss asked the Maine Energy Office to review our website.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise: Nothing new.

Solar:

- Posted sign at Transfer Station promoting Town solar array.
- Dan, Ken and John McIlwain met with Mike Felton, Cassie Kilbride and Randy Elwell (St. George School) about solar options. John McIlwain will help with future Zoom meetings between vendors and Mike Felton.
- Annette: Heard of land in South Thomaston on Rt. 131 being leased for a solar farm. Will send us information.

Resource Maps: (Ken, Dan)

- Will finish updating maps this month.
- Kate will return our map with our notes and make 11X17 copies for review.

New Business

Stream Restoration: (Joss)

- Raising the dam to protect the Marsh from saltwater intrusion is very expensive.
- Annette suggested contacting Searsmont and seeing if their efforts to remove a dam can help with our efforts to improve alewife habitat.

Budget: (Ken)

- May put more money (\$10k) in CC budget to use for overall trail maintenance and development. Budget request total \$13350. Cost for Fort Point boundary survey is \$5900. Committee agreed to use 50% of uncommitted funds from current CC funds (about \$6000) if SB puts up the rest.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Nothing new.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo