

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday May 6, 2021

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

Public Comment: None

Announcements: None

Modifications to Agenda: Discuss role of Knox/Lincoln County Soil & Water Cons. District.

Minutes: Motion by Joss to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Tom. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- **Fort Point Ad Hoc CC Committee:** Getting quotes on bridge design. Will get answers about permitting on Friday. On Tuesday will look to see if money for bridge is in budget. RTP grant application due in September. Note: Seminars will be offered for getting RTP grants this month.
- Clark Island: CC helped Amanda with trail work. Next work on June 3rd.
- Meadow Brook: Work trips on June 10th and 17th.
- School access paths: Dale, CC members and School volunteers worked on Library /School access trails.
- Ken: Received a letter from the School 5th grade class requesting permission to install first aid kits at the kiosk as part of their for "Better World Day Project." Motion by Tom that School 5th grade class can put first-aid kits at the beginning and end of the School Nature trail as long as they maintain them. Seconded by John M. Unanimously approved. Ken to send approval letter.
- **Fort Point Ad Hoc Town Committee (Ken):** April 26th meeting with SB
 1. CC will check with State about parking lot improvements.
 2. Boundary survey complete. Abutters agree with boundaries. Town will do paperwork in a "quick claim deed." Pins and signs will be placed.
 3. Town Ad Hoc Committee dissolved. CC Ad Hoc Committee will take over.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- GRLT CC Summit: Five CC groups met on April 27th to discuss past, present and future plans.
- GRLT: Ken attended Trails and Preserves meetings. Scott Sullivan (Trails Manager). Need trail monitor volunteers. Ken suggested Anne Cogger for Tommy's Island and Steve Cartwright for "Roaring Spout."
- MCHT Clark Island: Neighborhood meeting planned. Looking at parking solutions because many hikers are using Craginar Inn's spaces. Amanda will meet on May 13th

with Planning Board on invasive removal. Ken will contact John K. to see if he can attend.

- GRLT: Annette was contacted by former owner of the Old Woods Farm about a planned easement and public access. She is talking to the current owner about this and possible grants. Neighborhood appears to be fine with walkers using the trails as long as they don't park on their road.

Education: (Ingrid)

- Spring Lecture: There were 41 attendees at the April 22nd lecture with Kelly Corbin on "Gardening for a Better Planet." A lot of good feedback was received. Will send a Town announcement when the recording is available.

Invasives (John K.)

- Nothing new but noted that there is a good Free Press article on the Brown Tailed moth and Emerald beetle.
- Kristin Falla contacted the commission relative to help with Japanese Knotweed on her property. John K will follow up with Kristin.

Website Update (John M.)

- Updated Education and Invasives pages. Dan will work on updating the Solar page.

Climate Change: (Dan) Sea Level Rise:

- Island Institute released a new video discussing challenges facing Vinalhaven. Dan will send out the link.

Solar:

- School Solar: Ken, Dan and John M joined a School Board meeting on April 27th to discuss a proposal by ReVision Energy. ReVision offered 20% savings over the standard CMP rate. This is 5% better than the other proposals but does not allow subscribers to terminate the 20 year contract as easily as the other proposals. Given that the School intends to add more buildings we advised the Board that the reduced flexibility may not be worth the 5% additional savings. ReVision then said they would match the other proposals' two month termination option.

New Business

Forest Management (Joss)

- GRLT event on April 29th: They have a forest certification program that is very applicable to the Town Forest. Encourages wildlife through providing food sources and habitat such as vernal pools. Good model for best management practices. Most businesses are already certified. CC should encourage landowners to participate in certification and it may encourage interest in other conservation efforts as well. Possible education lecture event.

Knox/Lincoln County Soil & Water Conservation District (Dan)

- Merryspring talk: Learned about their certification programs for forest and urban settings for residential and municipal/business properties. They partner with GRLT so it is likely the same program. Will send links.
- They also have several programs that are similar to ours (e.g., trails, invasive removal and education). They have many resources including volunteers that the CC can utilize.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo