

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday July 1, 2021

Attendance: Via Zoom: Members: Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, John Meyer, Dale Pierson, John Knuerr and Tom Gorrill; Also: Joss Coggeshall.

Public Comment: None

Announcements:

- Friends of Saint George sent a letter stating that they have accomplished their goals and are disbanding the organization. Ken will respond with a letter thanking the FOSG for all their good work and that the CC will continue working on land conservation that was at the center of FOSG goals.
- John K., John M., and Ryan have agreed to another term on the CC. Dale was accepted to be a new alternate member.

Modifications to Agenda: None.

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

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Benches were donated by Jackson Memorial Library for use on the trails. After a CC discussion John offered to stain them.
- Work Trips: Bog bridging on Fort Point. Need more volunteers. Will advertise on Facebook.
- Fort Point: Dale and Ken met with abutters (Laurie and Richard) who are happy with trail approach and signage. Doug Beck now thinks grant application can be successful without State portion. A estimated \$150k project will require \$30k from Town and donations. SB voted to pursue grant money. Dale will tally up all the matching funds by the time the RTP grant application is due in mid-September. Will need agent authorization letter from new Town Manager to begin permitting process by Gartley and Dorsky. Ken will send out requests for support letters that are needed in the application process.
- Public information meeting needs to be set up.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- MCHT Clark Island: Amanda approached Outward Bound about parking but they weren't receptive to the idea. She did put in better signage and painted lines in the designated trail parking at the Craginair Inn. Amanda is still looking at other nearby property for parking. If parking isn't available signage could be added to suggest other trails for hikers to use.
- GRLT: Nothing new.

Education: See Invasives

Invasives (John K.)

- Pests: Working on best ways to notify St. George residents. Dale will work with John K.
- Clark Island: Looking into grant funding for remediation project.
- Education: John will work with Amanda on a pesticide program. CC will have final OK.

Website Update (John M.)

- Looking into replacing paper trail maps with uploads to hiker cell phones. Provide QR codes to GRLT or our website at trail head kiosks.
- John will add link to School podcasts sent by Alison to CC to review.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise:

- Resilience Training: Dan and Richard Bates attended an advisory group Zoom meeting on June 21 sponsored by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). The towns of St. George and Vinalhaven were selected as representative rural coastal communities. These towns and climate experts from State, Federal and private non-profit organizations shared their ideas on the framework and challenges of reaching out to rural regions with resilience training programs to deal with climate change (e.g, SLR). The Town's role will be to recruit about ten representatives from the community and to provide a meeting venue. Diversity and equity will be key issues in the selection process. The next advisory meeting will be later this summer (TBA).

Solar:

Solar page update completed.

Forest Management (Joss)

Ryan will take over this Fall.

New Business

Select Officers (Joss)

- Motion to nominate and approve Ken for CC Chair and Dan for Secretary by Tom. Seconded by John K. Approved unanimously.

Remote Participation Policy (Ken) Motion to have a public meeting to approve the new remote participation policy at 4 PM before our next meeting on August 5th made by John K. Seconded by Dale. Approved unanimously.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) Not here

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here.

Motion by Tom to adjourn meeting. Seconded by John K. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo