

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday June 7, 2021

Attendance: Via Zoom: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, John Meyer, Ryan LeShane, John Knuerr and Tom Gorrill; Also: Lori Gary, Dale Pierson, Tammy Willey (SB), and Amanda Devine (MCHT).

Public Comment: None

Announcements: Joss retiring from CC after 15 years. We thank you for all your work and look forward to seeing you as a member of the general public.

Modifications to Agenda: Alewives seen in Marsh.

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

Old Business

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Amanda (MCHT) will contribute 1/3 to permitting costs. GRLT and Town will each pay 1/3. CC budget approved with \$10,000 for this and other projects. Will use for matching funds for future grants (e.g., RTP)
- Funding for Fort Point permitting approved by the Select Board. Gartley and Dorsky authorized to begin the work which will be required for the RTP grant.
- Clark Island: On June 3rd CC helped Amanda with western trail work.
- Meadow Brook: Work trip on June 17th. Stepping stones.
- Parking lot and bridge for Fort Point still being discussed. Signs being erected.
- Dan proposed looking into putting in trails to connect with Clark Island from other parking locations.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).

- Clark Island: Amanda had meeting on safety and parking issues with the neighbors. Suggestions included: Setting new speed limits and enforcing them as well as ways to prevent parking in non-designated spots and along Clark Island Rd.

Education: (Ken)

- Recording posted on CC website for lecture with Kelly Corbin on "Gardening for a Better Planet."
- John K. will work on Invasives event.
- Ken: There won't be an Education Coordinator but Ingrid and Anita have volunteered to help any CC members with each proposal.

Invasives (John K.)

- Amanda: Attended Town meeting with John K. on invasive removal on Clark Island. Talked with Terry on Shoreline regulations. Will submit 5-10 year plan. Will start with non-shoreline to avoid complications. Bittersweet is the biggest problem. Proposed mowing with limited herbicide use. Will close during heavy work. Will use stewardship money. Can serve as demonstration/educational project.
- John met with Kristin Falla on Japanese Knotweed on her property. Suggested best practices but need to talk to neighbors who have same problem.
- Education: Making a before and after video for the invasive removal was suggested by Dale. Amanda suggested inviting the public to be part of work projects and tours. Responsible and minimal pesticide use would be demonstrated. John suggested a CC sponsored invasives talk. Ryan suggested Blueberry Cove as a meeting place. John will meet with Amanda to make plans.

Website Update (John M.)

- Dan submitted updates to the Solar page. CC members will review.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise:

- Dan will attend, with Richard Bates, Zoom meetings sponsored by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). They received a grant from NOAA to give resiliency training to coastal communities. St. George received \$2500 to participate in this program. The pre-meeting is scheduled for June 16th with the main meeting on the 21st.

Solar:

- Solar page submitted to CC members to review. The tone is more assertive but includes a caveat that municipalities must be responsible for the siting of solar farms.

New Business

Forest Management (Joss)

- Links sent to CC members to review certification program. Will discuss at next meeting.

Alewives (Joss)

- The School spotted alewives in Riley Creek below the dam. They didn't report alewives in the Marsh above the dam it is a good sign that alewives are trying to enter the marsh.

Select Board Update: (Tammy) CC will get back to SB on a replacement for Joss. Town converted streetlights to LED but no report on savings yet. Only in operation for three months. Streetlights were leased before but LEDs were purchased. Buildings were converted to LED and are saving money.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here. Ryan reported that a sidewalk is proposed at Drift Inn Rd that may affect a wetland. Suggested that CC should attend that Planning Board meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo