

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission Minutes for Thursday June 9, 2022

Attendance: Members: Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Dale Pierson, John Knuerr and Ryan LeShane; Associate Members: Ingrid Mroz Also: Michael Jordan (Planning Board), Steve Cartwright (SB) and Annette Naegel (GRLT).

Public Comment: None.

Announcements & Communications:

- Ruth Platt an educator from Alabama, sent an email saying how her students were using the information on our Climate Change page and asked if we would add a link from her students to our Climate Change page. John M. will post when he gets back.
- Newsletter inputs due on the 20th. Items: Invasives and Hedgerow events.
- Amanda: Add Clark Is. survey information to Town website and St. George Message Board.

Modifications to Agenda: Jones Brook new business discussed first.

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

Old Business

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken/Amanda).

- MCHT:
 1. High Island cleanup last week was very much appreciated.
 2. Clark Is. Survey link will be posted.
 3. New spur trail off of west trail on Clark Is: Volunteer work on June 22nd.
- GRLT: No dogs allowed on Hayfield trail (S. Thomaston) due to water contamination.

Fort Point Project: (Ken)

- Have received \$11.9k in donations pledged. \$600 left to collect.
- Specs and RFPs for bridge and trails issued. 25 potential bidders. Three attended site meeting on May 26th. Two bids for the bridge have been received. June 15th deadline.

Trails: (Ken for John M.)

- Fort Point now open. Jones Brook is open, logging postponed until fall.
- Work Trips: Planking and stepping stones placed on the Les Hyde trail on the May 21st. On June 2nd blowdowns removed on the Jones Brook and Town Forest. June 7th blowdowns removed at Meadow Brook.
- Next work: Cedar expected by late August. Jones Brook and Les Hyde trail blazing.

Invasives (John K.) See below

Events & Education: (John K.)

- Workshop scheduled for 9 AM on June 18th (rain day on 25th) on Clark Island. Nothing new to report.
- Registrations not happening yet. May need more advertising: Town announcement. Not on education page.

Website Update (John M.) Not here

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise

- Dan met with Leticia vanVuure (Knox Co. EMA) on May 19th. Working on an advanced version with more data for CC and SB use.
- “Tide Tracker” app that she developed for Vinalhaven can be adapted for our use. Photos and data can be uploaded onto their server for designated areas of concern. Public areas should be selected so that private information is not shared.
- Next meeting is on August 17th at 9 AM via Zoom.

Solar

- In the News: There are predictions of significant material shortages for solar arrays that may result in project cancellations and layoffs.
- Biden administration announced that he will invoke the Defense Production Act to accelerate domestic production including: solar array components, building insulation, heat pumps, fuel cells and improvements to the power grid. Will take up to two years to see results.
- In the short term may eliminate tariffs to increase supplies from Asia.

Meadow Brook MOHF Report: (Ken/Ryan)

- Still working on report.

Hedgerow Support: Julie working on posters. Ingrid will post about town. Suggested that a picture could be added to the advertising from one of the 29 artists who are showing in their gallery.

New Business

Jones Brook Resource Protection: (Michael Jordan)

- A subdivision was approved in 2017 along Jones Brook off of Rt 73, however, the owner wants to “shrink” the Town Resource Protection District to allow a setback of 75’ instead of 250’. The 250’ setback from the Brook is based on an old survey and water fowl and wading bird habitat designation by the Dept. of Inland Fisheries. The wildlife is reportedly not there per 2008 survey, therefore the designation could be removed unless the Town has other reasons to keep the boundary. Public would have to vote on amending the District. The owners are proposing affordable housing for the subdivision but this has little bearing on the District designation.

- Annette: CC should contact the State (the original survey) to see if they have updated information and/or if the Town wants to consider other conditions such as water quality and buffer potential for flooding. Should check to see if there is a precedent for changing District boundaries. Should also check to see if the 2008 state data affects other parts of the Town Resource Protection District. Ryan: Use GIS to check changes to other districts.
- The culvert for Jones Brook under Rt 73 is due for replacement. The Town may wish to have input on a design that will better protect the habitat. Sea level rise should also be a factor in the design.

Select Board Update: (Steve) Roaring Spout sign installed by GRLT. Parking is available at Blueberry Cove and a private property owner's trail connects to Roaring Spout. The possibility for public access will be investigated.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not here.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo