

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission Minutes for Thursday August 11, 2022

Attendance: Members: Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Dale Pierson, John Knuerr and John Meyer; Associate Members: Ingrid Mroz Also: Terry Bracket (CEO) and Keelia Liptak-Jay.

Public Comment: Keelia said she liked the invasives workshop.

Announcements & Communications:

- Newsletter inputs due on the 20th.

Modifications to Agenda: None.

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

Old Business

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken)

- MCHT: Nothing new
- GRLT: John to set up meeting with Matt on Jones Brook.

Fort Point Project: (Ken)

- SB approved recommendation to award the contract to Kennebec Trail Co. State also approved.
- Next planned meeting to meet John Copeland and Richard Cohen to discuss the use of the \$9k of in-kind services.
Contract award targeted for end of August.
Have received \$12.6k in donations pledged. Hedgerow contribution not included in this amount.

Trails: (John M.)

- Amanda asked for volunteers for Sheep Island cleanup. She will provide boat. August 23 or 24.
- Work Trips: Lumber is ready. Last week re-blazed Town Forest. Planking projects for Town Forest and Les Hyde trails are next.

Invasives (John K.) Nothing new.

Events & Education: (John K.)

- Clark Island workshop on June 18th was well attended. Keelia (who was there) shared her thoughts, which were favorable.
- Dale and Dan will share ideas on a possible climate event.

Website Update (John M.) Ken has recommended more frequent updates to spur interest. John will get another Google Analytics report to see which pages have the most interest.

Climate Change: (Dan)

Sea Level Rise

- Meeting on August 17th at 9 AM via Zoom with Leticia vanVuure (Knox Co. EMA). Working on an advanced version of the SLR interactive maps with more data for CC and SB use. “Tide Tracker” app will also be discussed.
- Received a summary from a July 29th meeting held by Lauren Caffé on Hazard Mitigation and Historic Preservation. It was basically a brainstorming session on saving sites State and Federal lists. St. George has eight sites listed.

Solar

- In the News: The Inflation Reduction Act has many climate provisions. Solar is a major item but just as importantly there are incentives for EVs, charging stations and heat pumps. Maine’s electric power only accounts for a relatively small portion of its power consumption, therefore expanding electrical use for heating and transportation is essential.

Hedgerow Event: (Ingrid) Julie reported that the gallery sales were very good resulting in \$1706.50 for CC trails. Ingrid will work on thank you for artists as well as Hedgerow.

Jones Brook Resource Protection: (Ken)

- Will Gartley (the civil engineer representing Justin Long) contacted Ken to talk about the project. Ken indicated that the CC would not have time to address this issue until next month.
- Dick has volunteered to spearhead CC on this project.
- Need to collect more data in order to compare Town and State maps so as to look at more than the Jones Brook area. Haven’t received a response from State contacts recommended by Terry.

New Business

Officers for FY 23: (Ken)

- Ken nominated for chair position. Motion by John M. to approve Ken as chair. Seconded by Dale. Approved unanimously.
- Dan nominated for secretary. Motion by Ken to approve Dan as secretary. Seconded by John M. Approved unanimously.

Select Board Update: (Steve) Not here.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Forms need to be submitted for new terms of members and associates.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo

