

# Finalized Minutes

## St. George Conservation Commission Minutes for Thursday, October 6, 2022

**Attendance:** Members: Ken Oelberger, John Knuerr, Dale Pierson, John Meyer; Associate Members: Dick Pelletier, Ingrid Mroz and Terry Bracket (CEO)

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Announcements and Communications:**

- Newsletter inputs are due by October 20.
- Anyone interested in attending the MEACC meeting in Brunswick on October 22, should let Ken know.

**Modification to Agenda:** None.

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

### **Old Business**

#### **Fort Point Project:** (Ken)

- Submitted project draft contract to Kennebec Trail Company (KTC) for review and approval. Expect to hear back in about a week.
- Will conduct another walk on the trail with John Copeland, KTC on October 28, to reflag trail.
- Will purchase software to allow real-time location tracking of property boundaries.
- Anticipate initial clearing to start in November.

#### **Trails:** (John M.)

- Cleared blowdowns on Fort Point trail
- Replaced planking on Fort Point and Town Forest trails.
- Posted closed signs at both ends of the Jones Brook trail. Closed effective October 1.

**Invasives:** (John K.) No updates

#### **Events and Education:** (John K.)

- Discussed link that Ken sent out on adaptive trails. John mentioned the website: Adaptive Outdoor Education Center. This is a group in Brunswick dedicated to improving

trails to different degrees to provide better access to differently abled persons. Agreed this could be an educational program in the coming year.

- Discussed potential workday to remove invasives on a town property. John is in conversation with Catherine Fletcher who is the special education teacher at the St. George school about including students. Given the lateness of the season this may not be the best time.
- John discussed a recent map from the Department of Forestry that shows the encroachment of the brown tail moth down the St. George peninsula. Winter is a good time to spot the moth nests. The map shows dots representing sightings of webs primarily along Routes 131 and 73. John suggested we do an indoor workshop on identifying web locations, how do destroy them, and general information on the life cycle of the moth. It was agreed to move forward on this idea and to involve the South Thomaston and Owls Head conservation commissions. John will follow up.

#### **Website Update:** (John M.)

- Posted closure of Jones Brook trail effective October 1.
- Posted reminder regarding hunting season and to wear hunter orange.

#### **Climate Change:** (Dan) Dan not present

#### **Jones Brook Resource Protection:** (Ken/Dick)

- Ken has asked Letitia van Vuuren, Knox EMA to do a digital comparison of the State defined Resource Protection vs the Town's Resource Protection area. This is to address the concern that State's reduction being asked for could impact other private properties.
- Dick spoke to Bob Scratton (Fish and Wildlife) who said this was in the jurisdiction of the DEP. Dick also spoke to Keel Kemper at DEP who indicated that they would not provide a wildlife biologist to reassess the property which was done in 2008.
- Suggestion to check with Gartley and Dorsky on available boundary documents.
- John M. reiterated the need for a visit to the area by a wildlife biologist as the last visit was back in 2008.
- Next steps: wait to hear back from Letitia and schedule a visit with a biologist.

#### **New Business**

#### **Select Board Update:** (Steve) Not present

#### **Planning Board Update:** (Terry) No updates to report

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

Respectfully submitted by John Knuerr