

Finalized Minutes

St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday November 3, 2022

Attendance: Members: Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, John Meyer and Ryan LeShane; Associate Member: Ingrid Mroz, Dick Pelletier; Also: Anita Siegenthaler, Steve Cartwright (SB) and Terry Bracket (CEO).

Announcements:

- Newsletter inputs by 11/18
- Vimeo contract is up for renewal. Consensus was to renew for another year.

Minutes: Motion by John to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Ryan. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Fort Point Project: (Ken)

- Site walk conducted with Kenebec Trail Co. on Oct. 28th. Minor changes to avoid inclines.
- Work trip tomorrow to clear the trail corridor.
- Talked with John Copeland on the contract review. No issues but needs more time to finalize the contract. Should have a signed contract by the end of the month.
- Trail work will start in May but will work on bridge design and delivery material this winter while ground is frozen.
- Talked with MCHT about work that Copeland is doing at a UA compliant trail on the Woodward Point Preserve. They are satisfied, which is a good indication that our project is in good hands. Ken and John Knuerr also looked at it and are happy with the work quality.

Land Trust Coordination: (Ken). Nothing new

Footpaths: (Tom)

- Fort Point: Minor work.
- Les Hyde: Blow downs taken care of.
- Jones Brook: Closed but still gets an occasional intruder. Will post more and stronger worded signs. Camera is being used to identify trail users when closed.

Invasives: (John K.) Not here.

Events and Education: (Ken for John K)

- Working with other groups on Brown Tail Moth lecture for January or February.

Website Update: (John M.) Updated postings.

Climate Change: (Dan)

- Resiliency Committee met on 10/13. After discussing various topics the members split up duties to look into setting up a tide monitoring station, heat pumps, available grant projects, ev chargers and school solar.
- Dan contacted Mike Felton with the school about switching to solar electricity sources. Previously they were pursuing a subscription with ReVision Energy. The school board later decided against this because ReVision required a 20-year PPA. The board tabled the issue but will talk with Gerry Hall (Planning Board) on other options.
- St. George Resiliency App meeting on 10/26. Leticia (Knox County EM) showed the group the latest “advanced” version. Dan shared the “basic” version with the CC and asked for their input. The “advanced” version was briefly shown to introduce the overall purpose as a repository for a vast amount of data that the town can use.

Jones Brook Resource Protection: (Ken/Dick).

- State maps available to compare to Town maps. A follow up meeting with Leticia vanVuuren is scheduled for November 15th.
- CC recommends that a wildlife ecologist look at the site. Ken will discuss with Anne Cox who will take our recommendation to the Planning Board.
- Any CC member is invited to look at the site on 11/20 at 10 AM. Meet at Fort Point.

New Business**MEACC Annual Meeting: (Ken)**

- National Park Service spoke. May be a good source for trail advice.
- Bucks Ledge Trail Project (near Woodstock): A good example of the hard work that was necessary to complete this project that was started in 2009 and just recently completed.

Select Board Update: (Steve) Nothing new.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Nothing to report.

Motion to adjourn by John M. Seconded by Ryan. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo