

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Approved May 14, 2019

Present: Greg Durgin, Jerry Bley, Tim Sniffen, Martin Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Brent West, Andy Walsh

Absent: Greg Leimbach

A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the January 8, 2019 RCC meeting minutes as amended. A second motion was made and seconded by RCC members to approve the February 5, 2019 RCC meeting minutes as amended.

Kents Hill School Workday - Trails Committee will work with students on April 30 (rain date, May 2). RCC members discussed items for the workday including adding bluestone where geotextile fabric is exposed on the trail extending northerly from the Fairgrounds parking lot, spreading woodchips on the planned Pulling Stones trail, and spreading woodchips at the start of the Esker Trail adjacent to the school bus garage.

New Business

Solar Project Workshop - Two companies that responded to an RFP presented at a Solar Project Workshop at the Town Office on March 18, 2019. The solar panels will be located at the transfer station and sited in the area where scrap lumber is currently stored.

Old Business

Fairgrounds Property – Bruce H. will contact Eric Dyer (Town Manager) regarding the status of the RFP for the parking lot expansion. The grant money funding the work expires two years from the date of the grant. The Trails Committee will re-route the trail once the parking lot work is completed.

Select Board Meeting – Bruce H. attended a budget meeting on February 12th with the Select Board. Paula Clark, Planning Committee member, recommended a review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan over the next few years.

Town Forest Management Plan – RCC discussed having Harold Burnett (forester) survey and mark the town forest property boundary and subcontract invasive plant control work at the town forest. Members agreed to schedule a site visit before the May RCC meeting to assess the town farm foundation and how to control shrub growth overtaking the structure. Control of invasive shrubs and other woody growth in the immediate area, as well as the proposed 2019-2020 timber harvest will also be discussed with Harold Burnett.

Open Space Plan Goals – Howard Lake, Jerry B., and Jill Ippolitti (Winthrop Conservation Commission) will schedule a meeting with Brian Tarbuck to identify and discuss conservation options for the Carleton Pond property. Jerry B. had no updates for the Christianson Farm property (now up for sale) across from Jessie Lee Church or the Draper property. Jerry B. will contact Maine Farmland Trust regarding options for maintaining agricultural use of the property.

Vernal Pool Update – The vernal pool database is complete. Tim S. and Bruce H. will collect and label photos of the identified significant vernal pools.

Expense Detail Report Review – RCC members reviewed both a budget report from Teresa Shaw (generated 4/9/19) detailing expenses from this fiscal year and the approved FY 2018-2019 RCC budget. Jerry B. will contact Eric D. and Teresa Shaw regarding reimbursement from the RTP grant.

Town Properties

Torsey Pond N. P. and Fogg Farm – no discussion

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)