

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes  
Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Fairgrounds and Town Office  
Approved July 9, 2019

Present: Greg Durgin, Marty Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Greg Leimbach, Tim Sniffen, Andy Walsh, Brent West, Bob Mohlar (emeritus)

Excused: Jerry Bley

Meeting began at Fairgrounds parking lot.

The RCC plus several Trails Comm members considered a new route for a trail which would allow walkers to avoid traffic in the parking lot. When the recent parking lot expansion was planned, a new trail had been considered which would have branched off the ballfield access road; this route would demand considerable work and expense. A simpler and less costly route would follow the eastern periphery of the expanded lot; the large stones could be moved a few feet into the parking area to create a barrier, the porta-potty could be moved, and the new trail would skirt the lot, passing just in front of the kiosk and beyond the access road gate. Grading/sloping would be necessary at the northeast corner to connect with the existing north loop trail. It is hoped that Town equipment and staff can do this.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that we suggest this plan to the Town Manager. Bruce and Brent will report this action to Eric Dyer.

Meeting resumed at Town Office.

## **Old Business**

### **Open Space Plan goals:**

1. Conserving Carleton Pond watershed – no new report.
2. Protecting viewshed from Jesse Lee Church hilltop – Maine Farmland Trust is considering ways to cooperate with future owners to establish an agricultural easement on this former Belle Vue Farm parcel which is now on the market. No new report.
3. Cooperating with neighboring conservation commissions and the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) – Possible barbecue to be considered at next meeting. Greg D will call area towns to determine which have conservation commissions, and if so, who to contact.

### **Town Farm and Forest:**

1. Landscaping and clearing around farmhouse cellar hole – Greg Leimbach brought his tractor and equipment into the farmstead clearing last month and removed vegetation, stumps, rocks, and other debris from the shoulders on two sides of the foundation wall. Follow-up such as seeding, mulching, and removing vegetation inside the cellar hole is needed. Andy will send out email arranging date for a site visit to plan follow-up. Tim raised possibility of reimbursing Greg L for fuel and wear and tear incurred in his helpful work.
2. 2019-20 harvest planning – No new reports on invasive plant control, property line blazing, or new details on the harvest itself
3. We will discuss the possible 2024-25 harvest at next meeting. There is a question of whether to keep that section of the Town Forest in reserve.

Recreational Trails Grant reimbursement: No new report.

Vernal Pools Inventory wrap-up: Bruce and Tim will resume work in July.

Readfield Messenger article: Tim was unable to complete article for June issue.

Ideas for future issues were briefly discussed.

## **New Business**

Town conservation property concerns:

1. Torsey Pond Nature Preserve – KLT staff and Howard Lake have built bog bridging over wet spots on the new stretch of trail beyond the first footbridge. They used lumber and fasteners which we had on hand, so there was no expense.

Tim and Milt Wright, KLT stewards, did a recent walk-thru and made up a “to do” list. Tim will email that list to the RCC.

Signage condition was discussed. Funds for replacements are in next year’s budget. To be discussed at next meeting.

2. Fogg Farm Conservation Area – No report.
3. Town Farm Forest – Dale M Clark will lead a “History Walk” through the Macdonald Woods and Town Forest on Sept 13, 2019. RCC members are welcome to participate and share reports of our work there. We will need to do some prep before Sept. 13 – trail mowing, other clearing. To be discussed later.
4. Fairgrounds – Dale M Clark has asked the RCC and Trails Comm. to install and maintain (clean and keep presentable) a planned sign showing scenes from the Old Fairgrounds to be installed before the upcoming Readfield Heritage Days weekend.

The RCC is pleased that this is in the works. There are some details to be worked out. Location may depend on route of proposed trail around the parking lot.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Tim Sniffen