

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019, Town Office

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

Excused: Bob Mohlar (emeritus)

A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the June 6, 2019 RCC meeting minutes as amended.

### **Old Business**

Fairgrounds Property – Brent W. and Bruce H. met with Eric Dyer (TM) and Anna Carll (Town Maintenance) regarding the proposed relocation of trails around the expanded parking lot. Eric D. and Anna C. agreed with RCC's proposal to route the new trail along the northeastern edge of the parking and to move the existing boulders to provide a safety barrier between the trail and the parking lot. The project could be completed this year and will need to meet the Recreation Trail Program grant requirements; Doug Beck (RTP) will need to meet on-site to approve the proposed plan.

Dale Potter-Clark is handling the historic sign order for the Fairgrounds. One sign will be placed at the parking lot kiosk and one at the start of the pulling stones trail (not yet cleared). The porta-potty will be moved from its current location near the kiosk to an undetermined site that is accessible for pumping.

Town Forest – RCC members discussed whether to manage shrub growth around the town farm cellar hole and, if so, how to proceed (herbicide or mechanical removal). The group also discussed eradication of invasive shrubs (mostly honeysuckle) in 2013-14 harvest area preferably ahead of the next harvest. There was some interest among RCC members in removing woody growth by hand from foundation area. Greg L. volunteered to scrape woody vegetation from around the foundation with his tractor. The group also discussed how invasive plant growth may respond to future logging at the Town Forest and whether any plots should be left uncut or managed more lightly to preserve more natural forest conditions. Brent W. will coordinate with Andy W. and other interested members in mapping the extent of invasive shrubs around the 2013-14 harvest areas. RCC will coordinate with Harold Burnett (Town forester) if herbicide spraying is used to control invasives.

Funds are available in the budget for continued mowing of the field at the town farm site and the access road from the Belz Road gate.

Recreational Trails Grant – The town has received reimbursement for the trail, bridge, and duck blind replacement work at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve. Reimbursement for the Fairgrounds work has not been received.

Former Belle Vue Farm land sale – no update

Town Conservation Properties – No report

Summer Barbecue – RCC will host a barbecue with neighboring conservation commissions at Readfield Town Beach (Maranacook Lake) to provide an opportunity to informally meet other member groups, share interests, etc. Conservation commissions from the neighboring towns of Manchester, Wayne, Mt. Vernon, Fayette, and Winthrop will be invited, as well as staff from Kennebec Land Trust and 30-mile River Association. Each group will be given a brief opportunity to highlight project activities and conservation challenges in their respective towns. RCC members agreed to schedule the event in early

September (7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>; rain date 15<sup>th</sup>) from about 5:00-7:00 p.m. RVSP will be by August 10<sup>th</sup>. Food will be provided and funded either through the RCC budget and/or individual contributions. Greg L. will check with the town regarding reserving the beach site.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 pm.  
Submitted by Andy Walsh