

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019, Town Office

Present: Marty Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Jerry Bley, Greg Durgin, Tim Sniffen, Brent West, Stephanie Donaldson, Bob Mohlar, Andy Walsh  
Excused: Greg Leimbach

RCC Meeting Minutes - A motion was made and seconded by RCC members to approve the November 12, 2019 RCC meeting minutes as amended.

### **New Business**

Proposed Readfield Conservation Commission Budget, FY 2019-2020 – RCC members discussed the FY 2020-2021 RCC budget, including signage needs for town conservation properties, invasive shrub control at Town Forest, road repairs on the Belz Road gate and town farm, revisions to the Readfield Conservation and Recreation Areas map, etc.

E-bikes – RCC members briefly discussed whether e-bikes should be allowed on town conservation trails. Since motorized vehicles are prohibited on Readfield conservation properties (except snowmobiles on designated trails), the question was raised whether e-bikes are considered a motorized vehicle. Members agreed the issue requires further consideration; no action taken at this time.

Oxen Pull, Old Fairgrounds Property – Jerry B. informed members that oxen will be used to move the pulling stones to their new location (existing trail, Old Fairgrounds Property) on June 20, 2020 during Readfield's Bicentennial event.

### **Old Business**

Carleton Pond Watershed – Representatives from the Readfield Trails Committee and Greg Leimbach (RCC and RTC member) will attend a meeting with the Board of the Greater Augusta Utility District on January 27, 2020 (Augusta City Center) to discuss potential trail development on the Carleton Pond property, owned by the City of Augusta.

Old Fairgrounds Parking Lot – Brent W. updated members on the status of trail reconfiguration near the Old Fairgrounds parking lot. The trail linking the kiosk with the existing trail south of the parking lot is yet to be completed. The new trail, surfaced with bluestone, will wrap around the corner of the parking lot and link up with the existing trail. The deadline for completing the work is March 2020 and the work should be completed before snow covers the ground. Brent will contact Anna Carll and Eric Dyer to determine when the work will be finished. If not completed in time, the town may request an extension from RTP (grant manager).

Temporary Deer Blind – RCC members discussed the risks and benefits of allowing temporary deer blinds at the Town Forest. Opinions ranged from concern regarding the visual effect of blinds to walkers (i.e., safety) to allowing temporary hunting blinds to continue the hunting tradition on the property. Members agreed that use of temporary hunting blinds should be subject to guidelines (yet to be developed). It was suggested that members review Kennebec Land Trust's policy relative to use of blinds and shelters for hunting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.  
Submitted by Andy Walsh