

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020, Town Office

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

Excused: Greg Leimbach, Bob Mohlar

RCC Meeting Minutes - A motion was made and unanimously approved by RCC members to accept the April 14, 2020 meeting minutes as amended.

### **New Business**

Bid Review for Road Repairs, Town Forest – RCC members discussed the bid prices received from Anna Carll (Town maintenance) for repair of the Belz Road extension and Center Lane (trail). The initial bids did not include the cost for crushed stone (\$3,187) which bumped the low bid of \$5,132 (Cushing) to \$8,319. The revised low bid cost exceeds the funds budgeted for the project (\$6,000) by approximately \$2,319. A single contractor would normally be awarded the contract. However, the town will separate out the low bid road repair contract from the rest of the proposal items which were bid lower by a different contractor (Pratt). Members discussed what existing budget items can be deleted to make up the additional \$2,319. The amount budgeted for trail signs and invasive plant control in the FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 RCC budgets is \$900 and \$1,500, for a total of \$2,400 that can be re-directed to the Town Forest road repair project. Additional income from the 2020-21 winter tree harvest could contribute to the RCLA budget.

The RFP for the tree harvest will go out in late summer with work scheduled for the winter of 2020-21. A provision will be placed in the contract to require any removal of stone walls during the logging operation to be re-assembled following completion of the work.

Jerry B. made a motion to “recommend that the Select Board accept the low bid for the Town Forest work (Cushing bid including the additional materials cost) and RCC will allocate the available funds to fully fund the project.” Bruce H. seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Brent W. – yes; Jerry B. – yes; Bruce H. – yes; Tim S. – yes; Greg D. – yes; Marty H. – yes; Stephanie D. – yes, and Andy W. – yes.

### **Old Business**

Financial Report, April 2020 – Tim S. reported no changes in the RCC account in the past month.

Readfield Outdoor Recreation & Conservation Areas Map Update – Brent W. reported that Art Grindle (Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District) is preparing the next map update. Jerry B. called for any additional comments to the property description section (backside of map).

Hunting Blind draft proposal – no discussion

Old Fairgrounds Pulling Stones Interpretive Panel – The Readfield Historical Society has indefinitely postponed the Maine Bicentennial Event (originally scheduled for June 20), including the unveiling of the pulling stones panel, until the State issues guidance with respect to large gatherings. The grant funding agency is extending the date when projects must be completed to 2021.

Trail Signs – on hold until RCC budget changes determined.

Carleton Pond Trail Scoping – Greg D. joined Rob Peale on a walk at Carleton Pond to identify potential trail options on the property. The west side of property contain wet areas. An approximately 4.6 mile trail loop was tentatively identified around the pond. The trail would staying close to the western shore to avoid wet sections and to provide views of the pond. The proposed trail will avoid the existing road on the property. Rob P. may mark the trail next week before reviewing the trail location with Brian Tarbuck (GAUD). The bike coalition will coordinate separately with GAUD regarding any other trail building work on the property.

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve, cleanup – A work day is scheduled for either Saturday, May 16 or Sunday, May 17 to repair damage to the parking lot entrance, repair a short section of trail at the trailhead, and to fix some boardwalk sections and the platform next to the duck blind. Tim S. will send a group invitation once he hears from Greg L. regarding his availability.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on May 9, 2020