

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Town Office

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

Excused:

RCC Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Bruce H. and seconded by Stephanie D. to approve the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes as amended; unanimously approved by RCC members.

New Business

FY 2021-22 Budget – RCC members discussed proposed expenditures for the coming fiscal year's budget. A draft of the FY 2021-22 budget was completed.

Readfield Parks and Recreation Initiative Meeting - A meeting for the Readfield Parks and Recreation Initiative will be held on Thursday January 7, 2021. Bruce H., Jerry B., and Greg L. will attend to represent RCC.

Old Business

Comprehensive Plan Revisions – A meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2020 to begin discussion of the Comprehensive Plan revisions, to be followed by a meeting in January (currently unscheduled?).

Protecting Farmland in Readfield – Greg L. spoke with Jake Hewitt (realtor) regarding the sale of 80 acres parcel off Rt. 17 adjacent to the GAUD Carleton Pond property. The current price is ~\$4,000/acre. Greg L. mentioned to Jake that Maine Farmland Trust facilitates protection of agricultural land through agricultural easements. The property is ledgey and may not be prime farmland.

Maine Farmland Trust will be invited to attend RCC's February meeting to inform RCC members about farmland protection options.

Firearms Ordinance – Brent W. reached out to the Eric Dyer (Town Manager) regarding the firearms ordinance. Because town properties vary in suitability for hunting with firearms, the Town Manager suggested that the Select Board may consider a more comprehensive Hunting Ordinance to provide greater clarity for hunters.

Highland Ridge Farm Solar Array – Jerry B. informed the group that the town permit for the solar project codifies the interests identified by RCC (e.g., the agricultural easement).

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on January 11, 2021