

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Town Office

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

RCC Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Tim S. and seconded by Bruce H. to approve the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes as amended; unanimously approved by RCC members.

New Business

Age Friendly Committee Grant, Fairgrounds Trails – Jerry B. informed the group that the Age Friendly Cmte. is drafting a grant application for up to \$2,500 for improvements to the Old Fairgrounds trail system (e.g., trail re-surfacing, bench on Suicide Hill, etc.). RCC may use harvest income from the Town Forest as match to increase the available funds. Jerry B. confirmed with TM that use of RLCA is okay. Greg D. indicated that some bluestone and geotextile fabric is currently available for use. Jerry B. said that the entire trail system could use a top coat of bluestone (~\$5/foot for product and labor; assume 5 ft. wide trail). The grant funds, if received, would direct monies to sections of the trail most in need, not the whole trail system.

The Age Friendly Cmte. is looking to RCC or Trails Cmte. to oversee the work. RCC immediate goals are to support the project and provide matching funds (\$2,000). Trails Cmte. may donate ~\$1,000. Most of the Fairgrounds trail systems meets ADA standards (except for Suicide Hill; too narrow), which is a requirement for grant funding eligibility.

A motion was made by Greg D. for RCC to provide up to \$2,000 in matching funds for maintenance tasks including re-surfacing trails with bluestone, as needed, and for a bench on top of Suicide Hill. RCC all in favor, motion approved. Bruce H. will send a revised RCC budget to TM tomorrow.

Listing Fogg Farm in Maine Trail Finders - Tyler Kenniston of KLT inquired whether RCC is amenable to listing the Fogg Farm trail on Maine Trail Finder, an online source that connects people to trails across the state. Brent W. mentioned that the Fogg trail is underutilized. Bruce H. motioned to add the Fogg Farm trail to the Maine Trail Finder site; Greg D. seconded – Approved. Tim S. will send a note to Tyler K. stating RCC's approval.

Readfield Parks and Recreation Initiative - Bruce H, Jerry B., and Greg L. attended the RPRI meeting on January 7th. There was interest in creating a management group including Trails Cmte., RCC, and Recreation Association. Combining the three groups was also discussed (RCC not in favor). Concern was voiced regarding RLCA

monies being used for extraneous purposes. Attendees also discussed about eliminating the fee for beach access by town residents; only non-residents would pay the fee. Some related issues need to be resolved.

Old Business

FY 2021-22 Budget – Bruce H. motioned to add \$2,000 to the RCC budget (for Age Friendly Grant) and to revise the budget total to \$6,250. Motioned approved.

Maine Farmland Trust Training – Jerry B. will follow up with MFT regarding attendance at RCC's February meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Revisions and Updates – Greg D. provided an overview of the status of the CP update. The group is soliciting public comments regarding where the town should be in 10 years (visioning), developing policies and action plans, and data entry. The CP update is a two-year process. Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) will assist in municipal planning process.

Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Map - Jerry B. indicated that the map was completed (a copy was emailed to the group) and is ready for printing by the town or an outside printer. Tim S. (?) will see if the town will print 50 copies of the map and more, if needed. Jerry B. requested an invoice from Art Grindel (Soil & Water Conservation District) but has not heard back.

Protecting Farmland in Readfield – Greg L. made contact with Stephen Christianson and will discuss the town's interest in protecting agricultural land.

Town Forest RFP – Harold Burnett (Town Forester) will schedule the proposed tree harvest when prices improve. Tim S. inquired whether Harold B. had been paid for work completed to date.

Town Conservation Properties

Torsey Pond N.P. – Trail signs will be made this budget year (FY 2020) by prison workers.

Fogg Farm Preserve – Brent W. will seal the second bridge in May. Tim S. has oil stain with grit, if needed.

Tim S. reminded us to thank everyone who helped clear the trails on the town properties following the recent wind/storm events. Thanks Tim!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
Submitted by Andy Walsh on February 7, 2021

