

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Present: Greg Durgin, Jerry Bley, Tim Sniffen, Martin Hanish, Greg Leimbach, Andy Walsh

Excused: Bruce Hunter (chair), Brent West, Bob Mohlar

A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the April 10, 2018 RCC meeting minutes.

New Business

Draper Property - Jerry B. gave an overview of a walking tour of the Draper Property (May 4, 2018) with Will Brune (New England Forestry Foundation), Jim Connors (Kennebec Land Trust), Howard Lake, and RCC member Greg Leimbach. NEFF expressed interest in securing a conservation easement this year. The option of NEFF taking ownership and of clearing trails on the property were also discussed. At this point, it's not certain if trails or a trail connection with the Town Forest and/or MacDonald Woods will be included in the conservation easement. Readfield Trails Committee will provide a concept plan for trails on the property. Will Brune will meet with the property owner to discuss next steps.

Old Business

Trail Infrastructure Replacement Project – Four bids were received for the project, including three from companies specializing in trail construction and one general contractor. All bids were higher than the amount allocated in the RTP grant for the project. Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) was the low bidder for the project. The 2017-18 budget was reviewed to identify additional funding sources that can be directed toward the project. Monies from the RCLA account (\$6,000) and from other line items (e.g., vernal pool map) will be used to cover the shortfall. A motion was made by Greg D. for the town to accept AMC's bid for the Trails Infrastructure Project not to exceed \$28,952. The motion was seconded and approved.

The option for culverting the first stream crossing (instead of building a footbridge) was presented by one of the contractors. After email discussion among RCC members, this option was dismissed.

A planning board meeting for the project is scheduled for May 9, 2018.

Readfield Town Forest – RCC agreed that funds for replacement of the footbridge on the outer loop trail will instead be used for the Trail Infrastructure Project. RCC will notify Jean-Luc Theriault (KLT) that the footbridge project will not be completed this year.

Solar Energy Project - Greg L. and Bruce H. have volunteered to represent RCC on the ad hoc town committee. Readfield Trails Committee also has a member on the committee. Jerry B. will contact Henry Clausen to see if he's interested in joining the committee.

Vernal Pool Inventory – Bruce H., Jerry B. and Tim S. met to discuss what's needed to complete the project. Bruce H. has the project files and will complete the data input this summer with help from Tim S.

Open Space Goals – deferred discussion until June meeting

Pulling Stone Loop Trail – RCC discussed whether the trail should be covered with bluestone or have a natural surface. Wood chips may be used adjacent to the trail to keep herbaceous growth down. An interpretive sign will be placed along the trail.

Trail Signs – Tim S. will dig holes for the signs over the next week or two.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)