

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021, Town Office

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

RCC Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Tim S. and seconded by Bruce H. to approve the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes as amended; unanimously approved by RCC members.

### **New Business**

Status of Invasive Honeysuckle, Readfield Town Forest – The field visit at the town forest to inspect the 2008-09 harvest area and the woods bordering the center lane for invasive honeysuckle is re-scheduled for April 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Tim S., Stephanie D., and Andy W. will attend; others are welcome to join. The purpose is to determine the abundance of honeysuckle in these areas and whether a contractor should be hired to remove/herbicide the plants, or if RCC members wants to schedule a field day to manually remove the plants.

Torsey Pond N.P. trail work – Four RCC members met at Torsey Pond on April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the trail erosion immediately west of the first footbridge. Andrew Deaett, Kents Hill School teacher, and his students have volunteered to do the work. Two areas of the trail need attention: the section of trail just before the footbridge where runoff is scouring a channel to the stream, and the trail just above that where runoff is crossing the trail in 2 or 3 locations. Tim S. provided a detailed sketch of the proposed work, which involves installing a “box culvert” to channel the main flow of runoff off the trail. Where runoff is crossing the path a little ways farther up the trail, a “dip and berm” technique is proposed to channel the water into the woods. RCC is also considering shifting the section of trail just above the footbridge a little to the right (south) to slightly higher ground.

Long Range Comprehensive Planning for Town Conservation Properties – Bruce H. will take Greg D.'s place as RCC representative on the Comprehensive Plan Update committee. Greg L. is working to get citizen input on the specific issue of town conservation properties and how they should be managed and used. Marty H. recommended an RCC group meeting to review the CP with respect to the town conservation properties.

### **Old Business**

Farming and Agriculture in Readfield, RCC Game Plan – Greg L. has been reviewing pertinent literature to better understand issues related to farming and agriculture and recommended some books that he's been reading on the subject. Bruce H. made contact with a farmer (Ben Slayton), who owns Farmers' Gate Market (Butcher

Shop) in Leeds, Maine. Andy W. mentioned that Charlie Knight (Knight's Farm, Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield) may be willing to discuss his experience establishing a farm in town, as well as Craig Hickman in Winthrop. Greg D. mentioned Dirigo Hill Farm on South Road in Readfield. Marty H. asked if there's a map showing the location of farms in town.

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve Signs – Jerry B. has the trail signs for TPNP and will apply stain to the signs before putting them up on the preserve. Brent W. will assist. The cost to have the signs made by the prison workers was \$360.

Comprehensive Plan Revisions – Greg D. indicated the next meeting is scheduled for April 21 to discuss historical/architectural assets in town. Meeting minutes will be forwarded.

Town Forest Harvest – Harold Burnett, Town forester, will issue an RFP in June with a late summer/early fall harvest planned. Tim S. said Hunter Manley (tel. 491-3420) is the herbicide applicator that Harold previously used. Herbicide removal or treatments, if used, should be done before the tree harvest. High quality trees from the site will be used for lumber and low quality trees for pulp.

Age Friendly Committee Grant, Fairgrounds Trails – Jerry B. indicated that a \$2,000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation was awarded; the grant stipulates a \$2,000 match (RCC will provide). The funds will be used for bluestone to re-surface the trails and for a bench (\$500) to be placed at the top of the hill; Trails Committee will coordinate the work. The grant includes money for a contractor with a tractor and roller (if possible) to do the work. Romaine Turyn is currently working on an AARP grant for another project.

Town Social Events – Several ideas to promote interest and use of the town conservation properties were mentioned, including an interpretive walk to the pulling stones (Historical Society lead), bird walk in May or a nature walk on one of the properties, or a pre-harvest walk at RTF to discuss forestry (Jerry B. will see if Harold B. is interested). Marty H. suggested that a rep from each of the town committees discuss the purpose and function of their respective committees. Greg L. suggested that any event be scheduled after Labor Day since many people are away in August. Greg L. will contact Dennis Price to follow up.

New Field at Fairgrounds, Recreation Association – Marty H. indicated that there's \$45,000 in the budget for building a new ballfield. Shawn Keegan (Budget Cmte.) is confident they can raise additional money. Per an email from Eric Dyer (Town manager), Greg D. asked whether there is support for new ballfields. Greg D. is unsure how much use the McPhedran field complex at Maranacook School gets. Marty H. mentioned that non-school related programs may not be allowed to use school athletic fields (source of this information is unconfirmed). Greg L. said there was a high demand for school field 20 years ago but not sure what the demand is currently.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.  
Submitted by Andy Walsh on May 10, 2021