

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 10, 2021, Readfield Town Beach

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

Guests: Harold Burnett (Town Forester) and Jessica Gorton (Comprehensive Plan Cmte.)

Excused: Brent West, Greg Leimbach, Lisa Garside

New Business

Overview of Timber Harvest Bid Summary – Harold Burnett (Town Forester) gave a detailed overview of the bid summary (handout) for the upcoming timber harvest and access road/trail (Center Lane) repairs at the Town Forest. Harold described how net income for the project is derived from contractor expenses (materials and equipment used) and income (stumpage) based on the estimated volume of sawlogs, pulpwood, and wood chips on the site. Five logging contractors bid on the project. Harold's overview was followed by lengthy discussion of the specifics related to the project and forest management in general.

Based on the bids, Harold recommended using Terry Hayford. A motion was made by Marty H. to recommend to the Select Board that the Hayford proposal be used. Greg D. seconded; approved unanimously.

New Ballfield at Fairgrounds Property – RCC discussed the how to assess the proposed ballfield plan based on the criteria outlined in Section VII of the Fairgrounds Management Plan (1995). The criteria include:

- (1) Need and/or advantages of locating the development in the village area and on the Fairgrounds property.
- (2) Availability of other sites that would be suitable for such development.
- (3) Potential conflicts with other existing or potential uses of the Fairgrounds property.

Adjustments to the current engineering plan were also mentioned to mitigate the visual effects to existing uses of the property, including lowering the grade of the ballfield and the slope adjacent to the existing MacDougal Trail.

Group discussion followed. Greg D. mentioned that the project proponents have not attended the meeting to discuss the project. Several members voiced concern about losing additional open field/meadow at the Fairgrounds. There was interest in having the proponent provide an analysis of alternative sites including restoration of any existing fields. It was also noted that the existing ballfield and parking lot have been built since the Fairgrounds Management Plan was written.

Jerry B. suggested that RCC prepare a letter to the Recreation Committee that says: "In our role as stewards of the Fairgrounds property, the RCC is not prepared to support the proposed ballfield at the Fairgrounds property until it is clearly

demonstrated to the RCC that there's no suitable alternatives in town.” Jerry B. made a motion to approve the statement; Greg D. seconded. All were in favor (Tim S. abstained).

Jessica Gorton, Comprehensive Plan Sections – In an earlier email, Bruce H. provided an electronic copy of the Land and Water Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan from the current 2009 plan and a working draft of an updated Natural Resources Chapter that Jessica’s been working on with KVCOG. Jessica gave a brief overview of the sections and asked for the RCC to review the documents to provide input concerning policies and goals for the new plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on September 13, 2021