

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes

June 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Approved July 10, 2018

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

Excused: Bob Mohlar, Martin Hanish

A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the May 5, 2018 RCC meeting minutes.

New Business

Trail Infrastructure Replacement Project - Jerry B. gave an overview of progress on the bridge and trail work by the Appalachian Mountain Club crew at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve (TPNP) and the Fogg Property. The crew mostly completed the two bridge crossings and started work on the bog bridging. The duck blind replacement is scheduled for August. The upper bridge will accommodate ATVs as needed for future trail maintenance. Installation of a post on the bridge or the placement of a large boulder was discussed to discourage the entry of recreational ATVs onto the TPNP trails. Replacement of the foot bridge and other trail work at the Fogg Property will begin after work at TPNP is completed this week.

Old Business

Draper Property - Jerry B. provided an update of the Draper Property. Will Brune of New England Forestry Foundation indicated that a conservation easement will be placed on the property. Mr. Brune is aware that trail access is desired by the town to link existing conservation properties but that the provision for trail access may not be part of the easement.

Footbridge Replacement, Town Forest – Tim S. indicated that cedar for the footbridge replacement has been ordered from Tim Pepper & Sons Forest Products (Fayette). The approximate cost of the lumber and hardware will be approximately \$800. The materials will be moved to the work site by RCC; details to be determined. KLT will likely schedule construction in late July or early August.

Solar Energy Project – A meeting is scheduled for June 28 to discuss locations to site solar panels. Greg L. and Bruce H. will attend. Readfield Trails Committee member, Ben MacIntosh, will also attend.

Vernal Pool Inventory – Bruce H. and Tim S. are working to complete the project; no further updates.

Open Space Plan – Brent W. discussed next steps regarding the Readfield Open Space update. Maps should be updated and the plan should highlight any actions that have been accomplished to date. There are some goals pending such as climate resiliency maps and (update of?) co-occurrence maps that identify hotspots where multiple value priority areas exist. A public hearing with Selectmen will be required if there are substantial changes and town meeting approval may be required. RCC members will review the Open Space Plan before the next scheduled meeting.

Pulling Stone Loop Trail – RCC will schedule Kents Hill students to assist in removing the small amount of debris remaining and clearing a short loop trail to the pulling stones.

Trail Signs – The trails signs at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve and the Fogg Property have been installed.

Town Conservation Properties

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve – Last winter's snow plowing resulted in gravel being pushed to the northerly edge of the parking lot. Greg L. will check and see if a tractor rake can be used to pull the gravel back onto the parking lot.

Readfield Town Forest – Howard and Brenda Lake cleared the town forest trails

Miscellaneous

Mill Stream Dam Project Status – A contractor will start work on the dam, including installation of posts and railings, by the second week of July.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)