

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022

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

Mill Stream Dam – Jerry B. informed RCC that he and the Select Board received an email from Bob Bittar stating that the trail easement that provides public access to Mill Stream Dam and the trail agreement providing access to the American chestnut tree is currently null and void. The town crew had recently done some vegetation trimming in this area. Jerry B. recommends that RCC take no action on this issue. Marty H. does not believe that the easement can be terminated by a simple email.

Ballfield Proposal, Fairgrounds Property – Jerry B. (?) recommended that RCC send a note to the Select Board stating that if there's a renewed interest in completing the project (in current or altered form), that RCC be involved from the start. The pollinator garden proposed by RCC was integrated into the initial ballfield plan that was rejected by town vote. Although the ballfield plan is not going forward for now, RCC members agreed to proceed with planning for the pollinator garden this summer/fall and construct the garden next year (2023). Andy W. suggested that volunteers may provide needed labor and maintenance for the pollinator garden. Greg D. stated that it may be presumptuous of RCC to proceed with the pollinator garden since the ballfield proposal was voted down.

Town Forest – Jerry B. updated RCC on scheduling of the access road/trail repairs at the Town Forest. The work will be completed after mid-August when the goshawks are finished nesting.

Miscellaneous – Jerry B. informed the group that mitigation funds from a solar project could potentially be used to conserve the 300-acre Draper property in Readfield (?).

Greg D. discussed the use of closed captioning for remote/virtual meetings with Bill Starrett (Maine Innovators LLC).

Tim S. mentioned that Laura Lecker's husband evaluated the field at the old landfill during a site walk with some RCC members and recommended soil testing. A report of findings should be pending (?). Marty H. suggested that if the field at the old landfill is not suitable for pollinator management, it may be suitable for a solar array.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on Nov. 6, 2022