

DRAFT Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday September 13, 2022, 6:30 pm, via zoom w captions

Present: Jerry Bley, Stephanie Donaldson, Greg Durgin, Bruce Hunter Chair

Not present: Marty Hanish, Andy Walsh

Visitors: Jaaron Shaw, Tim Sniffen

Note: Bruce H has added Howard Lake to our email list to keep him better in touch.

Agenda was presented, and minutes for July and August were approved.

**Old Business**

1. Town Forest work session to clear trails after harvest: Briefly discussed. Date will be Sunday Oct 16, beginning 9:00 a.m. Should take a couple hours. Howard Lake can join. Jaaron Shaw offered to assist w tractor if session takes place soon enough.

2. Comprehensive Plan: There is a recommendation to consolidate the Recreation Comm, the Conservation Cmsn, and the Trails Comm. RCC has many questions – What does this mean, as these committees have very different purposes.? Could one commission adequately represent the three groups?  
Will there be a new Town staff position? Is this wise budgeting? Would it create conflicts of interest?  
How would the new committee work? Subcommittees meeting at the same time?

Bruce H will send out the wording of this Comprehensive Plan Comm recommendation.

3. Select Board retreat (Monday Sept 26, 5:30 p.m.): It seems uncertain whether the RCC will or should attend. Jerry B will discuss items such as Fairgrounds development w Steve DeAngelis prior to the retreat.

**Old Business**

1. Fairgrounds visit w Select Board: Eric Doucette, grassland expert, may be here this Friday (9/16) at the Fairgrounds. Bruce H will invite the SB and Town Mngr to meet there to view milkweed stand plus other valuable grassland plants.

2. Related: School fields abutting the Fairgrounds were mowed in mid (?) August. This seems an acceptable date to allow grassland birds to complete their nesting cycle.

Greg D will check with the mower, relate our appreciation, and encourage similar dates for future mowing.

3. Town Forest: We do not have a report of the total harvest receipts. (action?)

Improvements to Center Lane trail and Town Farm Rd near farmstead are part of the logging contract. Forester Harold Burnett reports they should be complete by end of Sept.

Work is to include rut repair near Belz Rd gate, and hopefully the gate latch which was damaged.

Educational site visit for the Town to review recent harvest – cancelled, at least for this year.

4. Fairy Garden proposal: Megan LaChapelle was not present to report on her general idea, nor on related KLT easements at the Torsey or Fogg properties. Greg D will check with her at the upcoming Trails Comm mtg.

5. Fairgrounds:

Ballfield proposal - Town appears not to be re-voting on this immediately.

Trash and dog waste – There were concerns that a new trash receptacle may not be working well. Dog waste is also a concern. Jerry B will check cost of a doggy bag disposal container.

6. Social event with other area conservation commissions – tabled indefinitely.

7. Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan revisions – no discussion. Tim S reminded RCC of questionnaire from the Comp Plan Committee.

8. Town Long-Range Planning – What do we see as important uses or functions of the conservation properties we oversee? Not discussed, but may be a focus of future mtg.

9. Miscellaneous:

a. TPNP - Tim S reported a tree down on Yellow Trail. Jerry B offered to check it out.

b. Invasive shrubs/vines – Lop and dab technique of control was discussed, and may be used at Town Forest, Fairgrounds, or other properties.

c. Maranacook C School plans a student workday during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Please send Greg D any suggestions for projects.

Next meeting (October 11, 6:30 pm) – RCC agreed to meet in person in the Town Office, downstairs conference room. Greg D will reserve room on an ongoing basis.

Meeting adjourned, 7:50 p.m.

Notes by Tim Sniffen