

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Present: Bruce Hunter, Jerry Bley, Jaaron Shaw, Greg Durgin, Stephanie Donaldson, Andy Walsh

Absent: Marty Hanish, Linnea Koons

Visitors: Howard Lake, Jaaron Shaw

Meeting minutes: September 13, 2022 RCC meeting minutes approved

Old Business

Town Forest – Full payment of the town's share of revenue from tree harvesting (\$14,305) was paid. A work session to clean up slash and debris from the trails is scheduled for October 16 at 9:00 a.m. Howard L. will also see if Trail Cmte. members are interested in helping out. The clearing near the town farm was mowed about a month ago; the cellar hole foundation is now overgrown. Howard L. mentioned was the need for another section of bog bridging near MacDonald Woods (Loop A or B?).

Harold Burnett (Town Forester) anticipates that the Center Lane (trail) and road repair will be completed by the end of October, but he's not certain (stay tuned). Jerry B. will scope out the need for signage for the Town Forest trails and will order the signs as needed this winter.

KLT trail accessibility will be assessed by Enock Glidden, trail accessibility advocate for people with disabilities.

Consolidation of Recreation Bd., Conservation Comm., and Trails Cmte – RCC discussed the Selectboard's proposal to consolidate the three groups under one umbrella. Concerns included whether consolidation would be a more productive way to accomplish the goals and mission of the respective committees and if it would be the most efficient use of volunteer time. Jerry B. recommended meeting with the larger group (or individual committees) once per year. Jerry B. will draft a response to the consolidation proposal for the Selectmen.

Fairgrounds Site Visit with Select Board to Discuss Grassland Management - An informational on-site meeting to discuss grassland ecological values and management with Eric Doucette (Associate Professor, Biology, MCLA) is postponed until additional planning for the proposed ballfield is completed. Bruce H. will send a copy of the RCC's Fairgrounds mowing plan to Eric Dyer.

Doggie Bag Dispenser, Fairgrounds – RCC briefly discussed whether the new doggie bag dispenser and trash barrel would work to curb dog waste on the trails at the Fairgrounds. RCC will monitor the utility of this initiative.

Land and Water Conservation Fund for Proposed Ballfield – Jerry B. indicated that the ballfield development proposal at the Fairgrounds is a good candidate for LWC funding. The town will apply for funding in June 2023 with a decision expected late summer or early fall. If funding is available, construction would be scheduled during summer 2024. LWCF restrictions would be imposed relative to the Fairgrounds Management Plan.

Bruce H. distributed a copy of the Main Land's most recent layout concept plan (July 15, 2022) for the proposed ballfield. RCC briefly discussed the pros/cons of the ballfield proposal and identified potential options (e.g., elementary and middle schools).

Fairy Garden on Town Property – Jerry B. talked with Megan LaChapelle about options for siting a fairy garden. RCC is recommending the Fogg Farm Property as a suitable location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
Submitted by Andy Walsh on November 6, 2022