

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes
Tuesday, Sept 11, 2018, 6:30 pm, Town Office
Approved Oct. 9, 2018

Present: Jerry Bley, Greg Durgin, Martin Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Greg Leimbach, Bob Mohlar, Tim Sniffen
Excused: Andy Walsh

Minutes from the August 14, 2018 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Fall student community service day, MC School –

The Oct 4th service day was discussed. Greg D has requested one group of students to work with the RCC at the Fairgrounds. Possible projects include building a new trail through the pulling stone area with wood chips, removing invasive plants/shrubs, and repainting the kiosks. Bruce, Greg D, Jerry, and Tim may be available to supervise. Greg will check on getting wood chips and contractor bags, Tim will get painting supplies and bring shrub pullers.

We will meet at 8:30 am, Oct 4, in the Fairgrounds parking lot.

Town Forest property tax- -

Town of Wayne needs an update of the TF Management Plan every 10 years for the Wayne portion of our Town Forest to qualify for Tree Growth tax rate. Our current plan needs to be recertified by 12/26/18. Jerry will ask forester, Harold Burnett, what needs to be done and the cost, and report back at the Oct RCC mtg.

RCC budget update –

Town has paid bills to Appalachian Mountain Club covering the summer construction at the Nature Preserve, Fogg property, and Mill Stream Dam. Jerry will check with Finance Officer Teresa Shaw about reimbursement to the Town from the State grant which Readfield has been awarded.

Fairgrounds parking lot project, also included in the grant, is still pending. Date for parking lot work is not clear. Trails Committee is prepared to build trails around the expanded lot.

Old Business:

Readfield Solar Energy Project –

Bruce reported on recent site visit by Town representatives reviewing possible locations for the solar project. The Town Transfer Station parcel (specifically the field near the current compost pile) seems clearly a priority spot.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted that, “The Readfield Conservation Commission supports the Transfer Station as a proposed location for the Town’s solar energy project.”

Vernal Pool Project wrap-up –

Bruce and Tim will continue reviewing Amy Bley's work on the database.

Open Space Plan review –

Brent reported that many of our higher priority goals are being met, but that we need to keep others in mind, including:

Landowner outreach and land protection, especially in cooperation with neighboring conservation commissions, and with Kennebec Land Trust. There was considerable discussion of possible ways to proceed – to be continued. As well as lands, viewsheds such as the vista across from the old Jessie Lee Church were cited as valuable in the Open Space Plan.

Draper Assoc. property update –

Jerry had no new report, but will check with New England Forestry Foundation about the current status and the possibility of an easement allowing public access.

Town Properties –

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve and Fogg Farm Cons Area: AMC work is complete. Some touch-up/clean-up might be considered.

Town Farm and Forest: The new footbridge was completed by KLT staff and trail mowing was done by Howard Lake. The farmstead clearing does not seem to need mowing this year. Invasive honeysuckle is recurring around the farmstead. There was brief discussion of timing for the next tree harvest – to be continued.

Mill Stream Dam project: Progress is being made to create an accessible scenic natural and historic site. Major work by contractor and AMC is complete. A workday to install fencing is scheduled Sept 22, 9:00 am. Jerry, Greg D, Bob and Jeanne Harris would welcome others to join them.

Jerry will work up an article for the Readfield Messenger covering the improvements made on Town properties this summer.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 pm

Submitted by Tim Sniffen