

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Present: Bruce Hunter, Jerry Bley, Jaaron Shaw, Marty Hanish, Linnea Koons, Andy Walsh

Absent: Greg Durgin

Minutes for the March 14, 2023 RCC meeting were not available for review.

New Business

Old Business

Chaga Proposal - RCC will send recommendations regarding the Chaga proposal to the Selectboard; proposal will likely be on the SB agenda this spring (April or May). Linnea K. sent an updated contract document from the proponent's lawyer that provides more clarity on the proposal.

Fairgrounds Working Group – Andy W. and Jerry B. summarized the March 28th meeting of the FWG. Among the issues highlighted:

- Paving and striping the parking lot to improve efficiency of use (preferred over increasing the size of the existing parking area);
- Utilizing satellite parking areas near the FG for big events;
- Informed by Town Manager that there's not sufficient time to submit the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application this year. The November 2023 ballot will have a warrant article to move forward with the application in 2024.
- Removal of the concession stand and basketball court from the concept plan;
- Delineating the preserved fields and the future development area on the plan;
- Adding an ADA accessible trail through the proposed pollinator garden and wildflower meadow;
- Ballfield construction in 2025 to coincide with construction of the Church Rd. sidewalk.
- Mitigation for the lost field habitat (managing 11.5 acres of field north of the FG for pollinators) is not part of concept plan but part of the agreement.
- Steve D. seeking more community access to RSU properties.

Open Space Plan – RCC group discussed whether there was the capacity to maintain more trails on OS parcels. Any new OS properties will need public access.

Comprehensive Plan – Linnea K. stated that the Comp Plan (draft) has RCC responsible for 52 action items. Jaaron S. stated that actions by the Enterprise Cmte. could conflict with RCC conservation goals for open space. Marty H. indicated that RCC may be omitted in actions that it should be involved in. SB has endorsed a \$50K contribution to the OS fund in the capital budget improvements article. RCC will

review the current inventory of open space parcels in town to determine their protection status.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on July 9, 2023