

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Present: Bruce Hunter, Greg Durgin, Jaaron Shaw, Marty Hanish, Linnea Koons, Andy Walsh

Absent: Jerry Bley

Review of the November 14, 2023, RCC meeting minutes approved by all RCC members except Linnea K. and Andy W. (abstain).

New Business

RCC Budget FY (2023-2024)

Among the budget items identified/discussed for the FY 24 budget:

- A memorial bench for Milt Wright (former Torsey Pond N.P. steward) to be placed on the spur trail at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve (TPNP).
- Invasive plant control and removal at the Town Forest (to supplement grant funding from the MFS's Invasive Plant Control Practice Plan funding), as well as a feasibility study for controlling invasive plant infestations at TPNP (e.g., glossy buckthorn).
- New kiosk at TPNP to replace the one damaged by the snowplow.
- General maintenance funds for routine maintenance such as mowing at the Fairgrounds property.
- Signage at the Town Forest, as well as some type of informational structure at the Belz Road gate.
- Linnea K. recommended funding for Chaga plots in appropriate locations on town properties (as previously discussed with JustNiks Mycosilva). RCC had recommended a 2-yr waiting period to gauge the success of the company before recommending if the town should invest in Chaga cultivation. Jaaron S. had reservations about local government being involved in a high-risk business venture. Marty H. suggested putting it in the draft budget and running it by Eric D. for comment. Linnea recommended a budget request for consideration by the Budge Cmte. and Selectboard, while continuing to gather additional information. Linnea K. and Bruce H. will meet with Eric D. on December 14, 2023, to further discuss.
- New signage along Fairgrounds trails due to realignment of existing trails as part of the new ballfield development at the property. Signage can be both for visitor navigation and education.

Marty H. mentioned that volunteer labor should be acknowledged in the budget to reflect its value in lowering overall costs.

RCC also mentioned that all property management plans and TF harvesting plans should be placed on the website to provide easy access for the public.

Fairgrounds Working Group – Greg D. summarized the last meeting of the working group, which included reaching consensus on a location for a basketball court at the Fairgrounds, and a revised concept plan by the architectural consultant to include an expanded parking lot, electrical service, pollinator path and garden, amenities such as porta-potties, kiosks, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on April 6, 2024