

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 13, 2023

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

Minutes for the May 9, 2023 meeting were approved by RCC with comment (forthcoming) from Linnea K.

RCC members briefly discussed the management of town-owned fields for grassland birds and pollinators. RCC will inquire whether plantings can be established at the old landfill site to improve the value of this site for grassland wildlife.

New Business

Maine Forest Service's Invasive Plant Management Program – RCC's application for funding for an Invasive Plant Control Practice Plan was approved by the MFS for invasive management at the Town Forest. A cost-share reimbursement of up to \$700 is available through the program. Harold Burnett (Readfield Town Forester; Two Trees Forestry) was contacted with notice to proceed. David Asherman (Two Trees Forestry) will be preparing the plan which must be completed by Oct. 1. Landowners with approved IPCPPs will be eligible to apply for the next phase of the program to receive free invasive plant treatment. RCC has \$1,500 budgeted for invasive plant management.

Open Space Plan – If the draft update of the Comprehensive Plan is approved, then the SB wants to update the town's Open Space Plan. RCC agreed that it will be important to break out different types of open space, since not all open space is publicly accessible. Jaaron S. stated the distinction between open space, as broadly defined, and "open area" that is unrestricted in terms of public access (e.g., trails). RCC agreed that open space definitions need to be clarified so citizens better understand what open space means (e.g., public access, resource protection only, scenic preservation, conservation easements with restrictions, etc.). RCC reviewed and discussed Jaaron S.'s draft compilation of all open space parcels in town, which includes acreage, owner, public access, and conservation status. RCC will provide additional input on the spreadsheet at the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Submitted by Andy Walsh on April 6, 2024