

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

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

Absent:

Guests:

Review of the December 12, 2023, RCC meeting minutes; Greg D. motions to approve; Linnea K. seconds, all RCC members approve.

### **Old Business**

#### Proposed Chaga Project -

- Conservation Lands Account (CLA) – RCC needs to confirm whether any remaining balance in the CLA at the end of the FY rolls over to the General Fund. RCC understands that the CLA is a designated fund that should not revert to the General Fund. Bruce H. will confirm this with TM. If money is rolled over to the General Fund, RCC can request that balance be returned to the CLA. It was noted that RCC should be confident of scheduling for any projects using CLA funds.

### **New Business**

#### RCC Budget – RCC discussed the work items remaining for the current FY (FY 2024):

- New kiosk at Torsey Pond N.P. RCC will contact KLT regarding kiosk design options.
- Commemorative bench with plaque for Milt Wright (former TPNP trail steward) at the end of the spur trail of the Orange Trail. The Trail Cmte. has signed off on renaming this trail "Milt's Way."

#### RCC Budget – RCC estimated funds needed for next FY (2025). New and potential items include:

- Considering information signs for the Town Forest (made at Maine State Prison).
- Invasive plant control at Torsey Pond N.P. Andy W. will contact DEP regarding permitting requirements and control options for glossy buckthorn at TPNP.
- Andy W. will contact Maine Forest Service to determine if funding for implementation of invasive control plans (and subsequent planning/implementation funds in future years) will be available.
- KLT "Trail Blazer" membership (\$350). Jerry confirmed that the town doesn't pay membership dues to the KLT outside of the donation the RCC is proposing.

- Bruce H. informed the group that TM (Eric Dyer) was not in favor of the Chaga cultivation project (JustNiks Mycosilva) due to concerns about vandalism of equipment. Following the initial proposal by JustNiks Mycosilva to cultivate Chaga on town property, RCC proposed revisiting the proposal in two years to allow time to assess the company's operations/success. Marty H. suggested that RCC alert the Selectboard that we are assessing the Chaga project as a long-term prospect. Marty H. motioned "to not include the Chaga proposal in the budget at this time, but that RCC is following the Chaga concept closely and may bring it back during the next budget year." Motion seconded and approved. Jerry B. suggested that RCC could have the town provide the Chaga presentation to Readfield landowners as outreach.

Edited Vernal Pool Map – Bruce H. mentioned that there are location discrepancies on the Significant Vernal Pool Map between the original information and Stantec's map. Bruce H. and Jaaron S. will review/correct the data and amend the map as needed.

Fairgrounds Working Group – The next meeting of the FG working group will be on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. with a Public Meeting scheduled on Wednesday Jan. 17, 2024 to allow the public to comment on the concept plan. Working group members will present information regarding the various facets of the plan (e.g. softball field, basketball court, conservation tradeoffs, infrastructure, etc.). A cost estimate for the project will be provided at that time (no town dollars will be used).

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on April 6, 2024