

## **Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes**

November 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Present: Greg Durgin, Tim Sniffen, Brent West, Bruce Hunter, Bob Mohlar, Jerry Bley, Andy Walsh

Excused: Marty Hanish, Greg Leimbach

A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the October 9, 2018 RCC meeting minutes.

### **Old Business**

**Fairgrounds Parking Lot Project** – Bruce H. informed the group that the metal gate will not be moved as part of the project (per Eric Dyer, Town Administrator). The parking lot will be expanded to the north only, adding 3 rows of parking. The dimensions of the new parking lot will be 180 ft. x 130 ft. (~0.5 acre) and will double the number parking spaces from 30 to 61 spaces.

**Open Space Plan** – RCC discussed the management and protection of the viewshed from Jessie Lee Church and the water district land around Carleton Pond (owned by the Greater August Water District, GAUD). Jerry B. will contact Maine Farmland Trust to try and get them interested again in pursuing conservation of the farmlands across from the Jesse Lee Church. The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) Lands Committee will schedule a meeting in February 2019 to discuss conservation options for the Carleton Pond property and whether some level of recreational access (e.g., hiking trails) is possible. Carleton Pond serves as a back-up drinking water supply for the District's water supply wells. The forest land around the pond generates revenues for the District through tree harvesting. Brent W. suggested first discussing the issue with the Winthrop Conservation Commission, KLT, and possibly New England Forestry Foundation before approaching the GAUD.

Brent W. will contact Jean Luc Theriault of KLT to request a GIS map depicting the conservation values on the water district land. RCC members discussed taking a larger role in conservation outreach and identifying land conservation opportunities. Other ideas to facilitate this initiative included creating a brochure highlighting RCC's mission and accomplishments and recognizing KLT in the Town Annual Report to showcase their work in town.

**Draper Property Update** – defer discussion to next meeting

**Readfield Town Forest** – no update regarding the town forest property tax. The Town Forest Management Plan update is due on December 26, 2018; the town received a bill (\$800) from Harold Burnett, Forester for the management plan update. The Town of Wayne has received a copy of the updated forest management plan which they need to maintain tree growth tax status for their portion of the property.

**RCC Budget Update** –Tim S. provided a copy of the RCC Expense Report for review and discussion. Jerry B. will check to see whether the town has been reimbursed by the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) for the costs incurred by AMC for the trail infrastructure work they completed at Torsey Pond N. P. and Fogg Farm Property. Tim S. informed the group that the next fiscal year budget needs to be completed by the end of December.

**Vernal Pool Inventory Wrap-up** – no update

## **New Business**

**Proposed Conservation Easement** - Bob Mohlar discussed a privately-owned 53-acre property located on the west side of Maranacook Lake whose owner wishes to donate an easement to protect the conservation values of the property. The offer has come to KLT for their consideration. Two existing camps are located on the property but are not included in the area of the proposed conservation easement. The property is largely forested by hardwoods; public access is a consideration. The group discussed RCC's role, if any.

**Readfield Messenger** – Greg D. suggested that RCC members become more active to submitting short articles to the Readfield Messenger on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to highlight RCC's work in town and some of the many values served by the town's conservation properties. Greg D. will write a piece for the January issue of the Messenger and suggested that responsibility rotate among RCC members. The proposal was well-received by the group.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)