

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes
Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 6:30 pm, Town Office

Members present: David Bagley, Dan Meyer, Tim Sniffen (alternate), Bruce Hunter, Jerry Bley, Andy Walsh, Bob Mohlar

Called to order: 6:30 p.m.

January 14, 2015 RCC meeting minutes approved.

Old Business:

2015-16 Budget Request – Tim S. presented the 2015-16 RCC budget at the January 13, 2015 Budget Committee meeting. The proposed 2015-16 RCC budget is \$4,365 (\$4,000 from RCLA, \$365 from tax dollars). Tim S. also discussed a liability issued raised during discussion of the purchase of a brush cutter (risk of use by volunteers).

New Members – possible new RCC member candidates were briefly discussed.

Vernal Pool meeting – Jerry B. mentioned an upcoming meeting on March 17, 2015 in Topsfield with Aram Calhoun (UMO) concerning a draft town zoning ordinance that would allow flexibility in the protection of significant vernal pools based on their productivity and habitat value. The draft ordinance is geared toward rapid growth areas of Maine.

Town Conservation Properties

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve – A few blowdowns were reported. No other updates.

Readfield Town Forest – Tim S. discussed the partial collapse of the footbridge near the old mill site. Proposing to replace with two, 12 ft. spans, 36 inches wide just upstream of the existing footbridge. A motion to spend \$325 on materials (estimate from Hammond Lumber) for the footbridge replacement was approved. Possible log bridging of wet sections of “loop B” on the lower slope were also discussed.

Fogg Farm Property – A single blowdown was mentioned.

Fairgrounds Property – Potential future flooding at the culvert crossing of the Upper Fairgrounds Trail was discussed. Although RCC approved the installation of a second culvert at the site, the stream was dredged and the elevation of the trail was raised instead. The raised trail bed now impounds spring/storm runoff. RCC will discuss further.

Miscellaneous Fairgrounds issues: Trail signs for the Fairgrounds are done and are presently stored in Milt Wright's garage. Construction of the access road and gate installation is on hold, but should be completed before the start of the baseball season. The status of the loam piles on the property was discussed without conclusion. Dan M. will discuss with Mark Birtwell the status of the telephone poles and whether they will be used to demarcate the parking lot.

Proposed Readfield Corners map – Tim S. discussed the status of the in-town trails map. RCC currently has \$600 for design?/printing and plans to use Community GIS to create the map. The map may include a history of the downtown area.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh