

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Town Office.  
Approved at RCC meeting, Nov. 15, 2016

Present: Jerry Bley, Greg Durgin, Bruce Hunter, Tim Sniffen, Andy Walsh  
Not present: Martin Hanish, Bob Mohlar, Beth Pritchard  
Guest: David Bagley

Prior to the formal meeting, we enjoyed refreshments and a time to recognize David Bagley, long time member and chair of the RCC. David's starting date is lost in the mists of time, but we think he served about forty years before his last term ended.

September minutes were approved as amended, and Tim will submit to Robin Lint.

**Business:**

Vernal Pool Inventory –

Leah Bley has finished entering spreadsheet data and still plans to scan the rest of the information, getting it into digital format. We will discuss next steps, including having Stantec re do the Town vernal pool map.

Recreational Trail Grant for major repairs –

Jerry has learned that RTG funds can be used for repairing/replacing existing trail structures. The deadline for 2017 grant applications has passed, so we discussed applying for the following year (deadline Sept, 2017) in time for the 2018 construction season. We will do a site visit to Torsey Pond Nature Preserve and Fogg Conservation Area this coming Sunday, Oct. 16, meeting at TPNP parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Tim will email a reminder.

We expect to replace three large footbridges, an observation platform, and a sizeable amount of bog bridging. Costs not funded by grant would come from the Readfield Conservation Lands Account. It was felt we should submit the overall construction proposal with our upcoming 2017-18 Town budget request. If approved, this would allow work to start at the beginning of the 2018 season.

Jerry suggested using a consultant to create a design proposal and will request bids from several trail-building firms. We will review our budget to be sure funds are available for using a consultant, and will discuss the project further during Sunday's site visit and at our Nov. meeting.

**Properties:**

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve –

As discussed above.

Tim reported working with Milt Wright, KLT steward, to complete applying non-skid stain to bog bridging. Also reported Milt's recommendation that all trails have yellow blazing to improve visibility for those who may have vision problems.

Fogg Conservation Area –

As discussed under the trail grant work proposal.

Town Farm and Forest –

On Oct 9, Howard Lake, Jerry, and Tim mowed Loop A and B trails and cleared access to the farmstead and barn foundations. They also explored an alternative trail route to bypass the oldest footbridge and make replacement unnecessary. A former trail into the abutting Macdonald property may be a possibility, and will be considered further.

Town Manager Eric Dyer has suggested moving the remaining loam from the pile near the Fairgrounds parking lot to the Town Farm to improve landscaping there. Bruce will reply to Eric that we approve his suggestion.

Tim reported that the Nuttall Ornithological Foundation has granted Leslie Latt funds to study goshawks in the Town Forest and Macdonald area.

Fairgrounds –

Ball field equipment shed: Greg reported that Paula Clark, Planning Board Chair, said that the original PB permit for the field does not forbid building a shed. Greg thinks the Recreation Committee can now proceed with construction. RCC has already approved the shed to be placed in the open space a short distance behind the home plate backstop fencing.

Ball field naming: Greg reported that a draft naming-proposal will be reviewed by the Rec Comm in Jan or Feb. A final draft will then go to Eric Dyer and the Select Board. A plaque to recognize “in kind” contributors is being considered.

Town Manager letter to Committee Chairs –

Bruce has received a letter from Eric Dyer announcing the annual meeting of committee chairs. Bruce will report on recent RCC accomplishments. Also there will be discussion of a new “Town Park Commission” which would include the Fairgrounds, Readfield Beach, Mill Stream Dam/Factory Square area, and the Library Park. To be discussed at Nov. meeting.

Bruce announced that he will be absent for some time in the coming year. An interim chair may be considered at Nov. meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Tim Sniffen