

Readfield Conservation Commission Minutes
January 10, 2017, 6:30 pm, Town Office
Approved February 14, 2017

Present: Jerry Bley, Greg Durgin, Martin Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Tim Sniffen, Andy Walsh

Not present: Bob Mohlar, Beth Pritchard

Visiting: Brent West

We exchanged introductions with Brent West who is interested in RCC membership. He is a biologist who grew up in Maine, has done wildlife management around the country, now lives on Fogg Rd., and works at Georges River Land Trust, Rockland.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Old business:

Trail Infrastructure Replacement Project –

We discussed some aspects of Steve Spencer's Trail Design report which he had presented to us on Dec. 28, especially his suggestions for trails in wet areas as substitutes for bog bridging. We hope to see such trails when site visits are possible. We will focus on Steve's report at our March meeting, and all should prepare by carefully reviewing it beforehand.

Budget for fiscal year 2017-18 –

Bruce reviewed the Jan 4 Budget Committee meeting at which the RCC and Trails Committee presented proposed budgets. Both budgets were received after some discussion/explanation, including the proposal to apply jointly for a Recreational Trails Program grant. This would help fund our trail infrastructure project and their proposed trail on Readfield Water District property. Our budgets include \$8400 (\$6000 RCC and \$2400 TC) for grant match funds.

Fairgrounds pulling stones –

No final plans have been made for the old stone weights left from the ox-pull event at the Readfield Fair which ended in the 1930's. The Cemetery Committee is interested in some stones for the proposed memorial garden at the Readfield Corner Cemetery adjacent to the Fairgrounds. We discussed where the stones would best be used since there are only about a dozen. Would they lose their historical significance if moved away from the Fairgrounds site? Another site visit in the spring seemed in order.

Vernal pool inventory –

Bruce confirmed his offer to resume the wrap-up process later this winter or early spring.

Town Forest –

We briefly discussed the question of rebuilding the oldest footbridge vs. re-routing that trail to where less bridging would be necessary. We need to revisit the site this spring to make a decision. This could be a school community service day project, and Greg will check dates at Maranacook High.

Signs closing trails may be needed if birds are nesting in the Town Forest again this season. Usually signs go up in March or April.

Mill Stream dam project –

Jerry reported that Readfield has received a \$3500 grant from the Fields Pond Foundation (MA) but that the Historical Society did not get the Kennebec Savings Bank grant. We have enough funding to start the dam stabilization work. Jerry will proceed with the DEP permit application.

Kennebec Land Trust property stewards meeting, Jan. 14 –

Milt Wright, steward for Torsey Pond Nature Preserve, will attend and report on TPNP.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Tim Sniffen, Secretary