

Readfield Conservation Commission Minutes, Sept 8, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Present: David Bagley, Jerry Bley, Martin Hamish, Bruce Hunter, Bob Mohlar, Tim Sniffen

Not present: Greg Durgin, Beth Pritchard

Visiting: Andy Harkins, 30 Mile River Snowmobile Club, Wayne

Meeting opened with Adam Harkin's discussion of the snowmobile trail near the Town Forest and Macdonald Conservation Area. The Wayne club has lost permission to use their former route, and are seeking a new route to link Wayne's trail with the Readfield snowmobile trail. The Old Town Farm Rd (a discontinued road) might be a possibility if all abutting landowners gave permission. The RCC raised concerns for wildlife, skier and snowshoe-er safety, plus the chance of snowmobilers straying off the road into the Town Farm/Forest property. However general RCC feeling was that we would recommend allowing use of the road if signs and barriers are in place to prevent trespassing. Select Board would need to make any final decision. Adam Harkins thought the snowmobile club might make some road improvements if given permission by all abutters. Jerry will send addresses of other abutters to Adam.

Old Business

Factory Square Dam Project

Jerry B reviewed site visits held in July and this evening (with members of Select Board and Bob Bittar). Mr Bittar's plans for a music center here may allow the public to better enjoy this scenic and historic area. Select Board members (2) who were there today seemed generally supportive Bittar's ideas. Andy Dube (designer) may do some simple plans for trails, benches, etc. There are many complicated aspects to the overall project. Trails Committee is not interested in taking a leading role, and the RCC feels we need to limit the extent of our involvement.

We agreed to schedule a light work session for some cleanup of the Town-owned lot, possible dates Oct 17 or 24. Referred to next month's mtg.

Town Historical Markers/"Roadside Museum" Project

Nothing new from Dale Potter-Clark. Referred to Oct. mtg.

Fairgrounds Ball Field

Most issues referred to next month. Greg may have input then.

Tim (or others) to look for more suitable lock for gate.

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve

Bruce had prepared a summary of the 8/23 site visit. Follow up to include:

“No ATV” signs to be put up at parking lot and at stonewall opening near Orange Trail. Tim

Fall Kents Hill School Community Service Day, 10/6, raindate 10/13 – We will try to organize repair of Blue Trail bog bridging, putting layer of new planking over old timbers. Tim and Dave, others ?

Observation Platform Repair – Structure is leaning backwards more noticeably. There was discussion of possible ways to repair. Jerry/others ? to check out and may consult with Howard Lake about appropriate follow up.

Belle Vue Farmland Sale

No new report.

Other agenda items referred to October 13 meeting.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Tim Sniffen, substitute Secretary
September 22, 2015