

Readfield Conservation Commission Minutes

October 13, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

Present: David Bagley, Jerry Bley, Martin Hanish, Bruce Hunter, Bob Mohlar, Tim Sniffen, Greg Durgin, Andy Walsh

Excused: Beth Pritchard

Old Business

Meeting Minutes – RCC members approved with minor changes the August 11, 2015 RCC meeting minutes.

Historic House Signs – Bruce C. passed copies to Commission members of a brochure and order form from Dale Potter-Clark describing the Readfield House Circa Signs for review and brief discussion.

New Business

Request for Vernal Pool Data – The status of data collected as part of RCC's vernal pool project was reviewed due to a recent request for vernal pool information by a potential buyer of property where a vernal pool was identified during the survey. Jerry B. indicated that the data is public information. RCC notified the landowner of the results of the vernal pool survey on their property before passing the information to the potential buyer. RCC needs to confirm that all the data is sufficiently documented and assembled. RCC members agreed the project should be completed as soon as possible. Jerry B. suggested the possibility of using a Maranacook student to help assemble the data into a final product. Greg D. will contact Maranacook School to see if any student(s) is willing to take on the project. If a student volunteers for the project, Andy W. will work with Greg D. to help organize the project. The final product will include electronic copies of all forms and photos required for review by IFW. It's not clear when IFW will make a finding of significance on the vernal pools identified as significant. Jerry B. will contact IFW or Aram Calhoun regarding whether any information should be released prior to IFW's review. Once we get direction from IFW or Aram Calhoun, Jerry B. proposed presenting the project findings to the Planning Board and Select Board and inviting landowners.

Mill Stream Dam Project – Jerry B. summarized a letter received from Douglas Riley (Consulting Engineer) regarding the stability of the existing dam structure. Mr. Riley's findings indicate most of the dam is structurally stable. To allow access to the dam and to ensure future stability, woody vegetation and associated root systems will need to be removed. In addition, some areas will need grading prior to placing a final stone dust wearing surface. Where present, concrete slabs will need to be broken up and removed or used to fill voids prior to final grading.

Jerry B. also described Andy Dube's (Landscape Architect) concept plan for the

site, which includes 5 components addressing work for portions of the site under different ownership (Town, Bittar, Cote). Jerry B. will present a status report on the project at the next Select Board meeting (Oct. 19). Specifically, RCC is looking for the Select Board to pledge support to the project so fundraising and trail easement preparation can begin and project proponents can file a Permit By Rule (PBR) for the proposed work activities. Work should not begin on private properties until easements are in place.

RCC members agreed that “RCC is supportive of efforts to make the Mill Stream Dam site more accessible to the public and is willing to cooperate with the Trails Committee and other interested parties to make this happen.” A motion was made and seconded to approve RCC’s role, as described in the above statement, in the Mill Stream Dam project.

Adam Harkin, 30 Mile River Snowmobile Club, Wayne – RCC has not heard back from Adam Harkin and Bob M. has not heard whether Kennebec Land Trust has provided permission for the snowmobile club to use the section of the Town Farm Road adjacent to KLT’s MacDonald Woods. Other landowner permissions will be necessary.

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve – Tim S. summarized the repair of the bog bridge crossing on the Blue Trail with the assistance of Kents Hill students. A motion was made and seconded an after-the-fact appropriation of \$126 for lumber for the bog bridging repair.

Tim S. reported that the owners of the adjacent horse farm are no longer interested in allowing access through their property for TPNP trail maintenance.

Tim S. will place new “No ATV and “No Snowmobile” signs at the stonewall opening near the Orange Trail where recent motorized access occurred in order to deter any future encroachments. The ATV rider that caused recent trail damage on TPNP was fined.

Howard Lake and Jerry B. inspected the blind to determine a way to “right” the structure and to better stabilize it. RCC briefly discussed ways that might be done and how to transport materials to the site.

No updates regarding the sedimentation issue at TPNP. Eroded sediment from Belle Vue Farm has accumulated at the mouth of the stream on the southern edge of TPNP and possibly entered Torsey Pond. Bruce H. and Andy W. will scheduled a site visit.

Town Historic Markers - RCC agreed to assist in promoting the “Museum in the Streets” project led by Dale Potter-Clark, but not be actively involved.

Ballfield Governance Agreement – No update on this issue.

RCC discussed the type of lock needed for the metal gate on the Fairgrounds. A motion was made and seconded to expend \$30 max for the purchase a key lock.

Snow fence near the ballfield was removed by Greg Durgin and placed in the dugouts.

Belle Vue Farm Sale – No updates

Town Conservation Properties

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve – see discussion above

Fairground Property – Jerry B. inspected the drainage ditch along the lower field/MacDougal Trail to handle runoff and believes that it is sufficiently stable at this time. Options for using the loam pile were briefly discussed; no updates.

Fogg Farm Property – No discussion

Readfield Town Forest – No discussion

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)