

Readfield Conservation Commission Minutes

January 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

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

Excused: Bob Mohlar, David Bagley

Meeting Minutes – Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members approved the December 8, 2015 RCC meeting minutes.

RCC Budget for FY 2015-16 – RCC members reviewed the status of expenditures for the current FY budget, identifying tasks yet to complete (e.g., Center Lane path improvements and mowing/brush hogging around the Farmhouse cellarhole on the Town Farm property), and which budget items can be removed (brushcutter).

Proposed RCC Budget for FY 2016-17 - RCC members used a worksheet to develop a budget for FY 2016-17, including expenditures financed by property tax and those financed by the Readfield Conservation Lands Account. The proposed budget will be reviewed by the Budget Committee on January 19, 2016.

A motion was made and approved to terminate RCC's membership with the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions.

RCC members discussed the Commission's responsibility to financially support a seasonal use Porta-Potty on the Fairgrounds property. It was agreed the Recreation Committee would pay to maintain the facility for duration of the baseball season, and Readfield Trails Committee and RCC would each pay for two months of maintenance of the Porta-Potty (\$170/2 months).

Funds for water bars (\$125) on the Fogg Farm Property should be expended before the end of the FY 2015-16 (the water bars should also be installed by this time).

Old Business

Vernal Pool Inventory/Wrap up – Greg D. informed the group that the Maranacook student to assist with completing the vernal pool work will not be able to participate in the project.

Town Conservation Properties

Fairgrounds Property – Members discussed the access road to the baseball field, specifically the need for a culvert and fill to improve the road for public use and safety.

Members discussed the need to secure the drainage ditch at the lower edge of the field near the MacDougal Trail with seed embedded erosion control fabric. Tim S. agreed to check prices for this product.

Members agreed to check with a contractor to see if the remaining loam on the property can be swapped for gravel that can be used to repair the access road and possibly fund the cost of a culvert. \$500 remains in the FY 2015-16 budget for these and other tasks on the Fairgrounds.

Tim S. purchased a combination lock for the access road gate. It was agreed that the Recreation Cmte., Town office, Conservation Commission, Trails Cmte., and the Fire Chief should have the combination to the lock.

Town Farm and Forest – Members briefly discussed work to improve the Center Lane path with gravel fill where seasonal pooling occurs on the trail.

On a separate note, Marty Hanish mentioned that he would be unable to attend meetings until early May due to a teaching appointment.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)