

## **Readfield Conservation Commission Minutes**

February 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Town Office

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

Excused: Martin Hanish

**Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded by Readfield Conservation Commission (RCC) members to approve the January 12, 2016 RCC meeting minutes.

**Readfield Messenger** – Robin Lint requested that the RCC submit a written update of RCC's work for the upcoming issue of the Readfield Messenger. Bruce H. will write an article summarizing the recent work on the town conservation properties.

### **Old Business**

**Annual RCC Budget** – The proposed FY 2016-17 RCC Budget was presented to the Budget Committee on January 19, 2016. The Budget Committee was receptive toward RCC's proposed tasks and expenditures.

**Slippery Bog Bridges, Torsey Pond Nature Preserve** - RCC members discussed whether to use a special, non-skid paint on bog bridging at the preserve to increase traction during icy conditions (as proposed by Milt Wright, Torsey Pond N.P. steward). Since funds are budgeted for the paint, the group will purchase a gallon of the non-skid paint to test whether it improves traction on the foot bridges.

There was also discussion about design and replacement of the large footbridge over the stream at Torsey Pond N.P. and bridging at Fogg Farm Preserve. The Maine Conservation Corp. and the Recreational Trail Grant Program were identified as potential sources of labor and funding for these larger projects.

**Mill Stream Dam Project** – Greg D. and Bob Harris met with John Cushing (contractor) regarding Phase 1 of the project, which entails breaking up concrete slabs, etc. on the dam and using that material for fill in voids to help stabilize the overall structure. The estimated cost would be \$3,000-\$3,700.

**Fairgrounds Ballfield Policy** – RCC briefly discussed updates on the Fairgrounds Ballfield policy. RCC will check on the status of the policy and will review the next draft.

**Loam Storage, Fairgrounds Property** – RCC will use FY 2015-16 budgeted funds (\$500) to remove the loam pile from the property. The value of the loam (estimated \$24/cy) will be swapped for gravel, a culvert, and construction services to elevate

and better drain low/wet spots along the access road to the ballfield. Jerry B. will prepare an RFP for bids, if needed. The work may be scheduled in May 2016.

**Vernal Pool Inventory** – Since no Maranacook student is available to help complete the data assembly portion of the vernal pool inventory project, RCC will seek a volunteer from town to complete the work. The need for a volunteer will be advertised in the next issue of the Readfield Messenger. Jerry B. also suggested soliciting help from a Colby College student. Jerry B. will follow up.

**Vernal Pool Map** – Briefly discussed the status of the Vernal Pool map. The group agreed that funds budgeted for this task (\$500) should be used to hire Stantec to update vernal pool codes and re-print a final copy of the map.

**Belle Vue Farm** – Jerry B. spoke with Nina Young of Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) regarding the status of Belle Vue Farm. The new owner is interested in continuing agricultural activities on the farm (not development) and has some interest in applying an agricultural preservation restriction to the property. Nina Young will set up a meeting with the landowner.

### **Town Conservation Properties**

**Torsey Pond Nature Preserve** – No further updates

**Readfield Town Farm and Forest** – Adam Harkin of the 30 Mile River Snowmobile Club in Wayne received permission from several abutting landowners to the RTF (Draper, KLT, Goucher) for snowmobile access on Town Farm Road. Mr. Harkin will need to discuss access with the new owners of the Stehl property.

Replacement of the footbridge on the Readfield Town Forest near the junction of the Jones Brook Trail and Loop B was discussed. The FY 2015-16 RCC budget has \$750 for the project. The need to haul lumber was discussed while snow is on the ground. Jerry B. and Andy W. will visit the site to measure dimensions of the bridge and to assess its condition.

**Fogg Farm Preserve** – Installation of water bars to correct trail erosion issues on the new loop trail will be completed by either the property stewards (Bob and Jeannie Harris) or Readfield Trail Committee volunteers.

**Fairgrounds Property** – RCC members briefly discussed the drainage ditch and check dams near the MacDougal Trail. RCC has \$100 for the erosion control mat (with embedded seeds) that will be used to further stabilize the drainage ditch. Either RTC volunteers or possibly Kent Hill School students will be used to install the erosion control matting.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh (Secretary)