

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Notes  
Weds, June 15, 2016, 6:30 pm, Town Office  
Approved August 9, 2016

Meeting was moved to Wednesday evening due to Town voting on Tuesday.

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

Not present: Beth Pritchard, Andy Walsh

Minutes of May meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

Year-end Budget Items:

Teresa Shaw assured Bruce H that all unspent budgeted funds will carry over and may be spent during the upcoming fiscal year. (We think this would not include items funded by property tax.)

From the latest Town financial report, it appears that we have not paid the \$165 Maine Association of Conservation Commissions dues which were budgeted for the current fiscal year. After discussion it was moved and passed 5-1 that we pay these dues. Bruce H will check with MeACC to be sure, request that a bill be send immediately, and submit it to Teresa Shaw for payment. We did not budget for these dues in the upcoming year.

A motion was made and passed to purchase two 100-stamp rolls of "Forever" first class stamps to be used for future vernal pool project mailings.

Two signs to replace those vandalized this spring have been ordered by Jerry B. He will check order status and ask that bill be sent this week.

All invoices from this fiscal year are due to Town Office by Friday 6/24/16, with absolute deadline first thing Monday a.m., 6/27.

RCC member appointments:

Greg D has been approved for a three-year term. Bruce H will reapply. David B will not reapply. He has served on the RCC for some 40 years.

### Town Conservation Properties:

#### Torsey Pond Nature Preserve –

The previously damaged kiosk appeared to have been moved after it was uprighted and fastened to a large tree by the parking lot. Clif Buuck added lag-screws and metal strapping so that it now appears more secure.

We decided to check with Town Manager Eric Dyer for approval and then request camera surveillance of the area from the Warden Service. Greg D will follow-up at an appropriate time.

#### Fairgrounds –

Greg D has sent notes to Kents Hill School thanking them for their service day help (erosion control for ditch and moving gravel for trails).

The Town Manager has been given our suggestion that only half of the Fairgrounds parking lot needs to be cleared of snow next winter.

#### Town Farm Forest –

The Kennebec Land Trust hike in early May was successful.

Trail closure signs have been placed at several locations, warning about aggressive nesting birds. Most of the TF trails are now temporarily closed to hikers. We expect to reopen them sometime in August.

Plans for replacing the oldest Town Forest footbridge are not complete, and materials cannot be ordered this fiscal year. Those budgeted funds (\$750) will roll over to next year. It was moved and passed that those funds (\$750) may be used for Town Forest or Fairgrounds road repair if needed.

It may be practical to work with Maine Conservation Corps on this footbridge replacement in the upcoming year.

#### Fairgrounds and Town Forest roadwork\_

The Town is planning to improve the Fairgrounds ball field access road and the Town Forest center lane (filling low stretches) with Town staff and equipment.

The RCC had approved \$2475 plus the loam which will be used at the cemetery for this work. Now we have added \$750 to this from the footbridge repair (above) making a total of \$3225 from the Readfield Conservation Lands Account plus the value of the loam available for these projects if needed.

#### Fogg Farm Conservation Area –

Rather than install water bars on a steep stretch of the new loop trail, we will reroute that part of the loop. This is a simple process which can be done when convenient. Jerry Bley or Bob Harris, TC)

### Vernal Pool Inventory:

Bruce reported on recent organizing sessions with Tim S and Dan Meyer. We now have the flash drive containing Dan's database work.

Several of us will meet informally in the second week of July to organize work with college student Amy Bley, who plans to complete the process of scanning materials and preparing it for mapping by Stantec and for submission to Maine Dept of IF&W. Leslie Latt of the Wayne Conservation Commission might be a resource for this final stage of the project.

## **New Business**

### Mill Stream Dam Project:

(Stabilizing the old dam structure for safety and improving access to this scenic and historic Town property in the Factory Square area)

\$2700 was raised at the community dinner held May 22 at the Emporium.  
We are waiting to hear from a grant application to the Viles Foundation.  
Jerry B expects to apply for a DEP permit by this fall.  
Greg D thanked Jerry for all his work on this project.

### Capitol Improvements for upcoming year:

We hope to make major repairs or replacements of bridging at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve, and possibly also at the Fogg Farm Conservation Area and the Town Farm Forest in the 2017-18 fiscal year. This work is to be funded by grant(s) and from the Conservation Lands Account (tree harvest receipts).

We look to be ready to apply for a Recreation Trail Grant in the upcoming annual application cycle, deadline either 12/16 or 01/17. We hope to contract with Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) to do the construction, and want their assistance in designing/planning. This planning will need to be done by/during the coming fall.

Consultation with MCC staff costs approx. \$250 per day. We will check with the Town Manager to see if Town grant-writing funds are available for this expense. Jerry B will check with MCC to see when they would be available to consult with us.

Obviously any such major project will be approached in cooperation with the Town Select Board and will require Town Meeting approval.

### July RCC Meeting:

A motion was made and passed not to meet formally in July. Any necessary business will be done by email. At this time our next meeting will be August 9, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at approx. 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Tim Sniffen, standing in for Andy Walsh.