

Kensington Conservation Commission

June 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting / Covid 19

Members Present: Sydnee Goddard, Robert Gustafson, Pam Holland, Joan Skewes, Courtney Preneta, Andy Roberts

Vanessa Rozier, Selectperson

Robert Chase from Trails Committee

Susan Varn

1. Minutes accepted as amended.

2. Hodges

Beavers- Pam presented invoice from Anton Kaska, Borealis Traders of New England LLC. The dam at the Moulton Ridge Road side of Hodges was dismantled several times and a beaver deceiver was installed. Motion to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$408.00 was passed. Beavers have since built a smaller dam upstream, the site will be monitored. Syd will contact SPNHF for payment of half of the invoice. Robert Chase has been to site a few times and spoke with abutter who is supportive of foot bridge being built, wanted to know where bridge will be constructed. Previously Matt Batchelder had been contacted to install the pilings. There was discussion of construction of the bridge, whether it would be similar to bridges on SELT land. Site may have to be monitored after bridge construction, concern beavers may use bridge to reconstruct dam. Syd to contact Matt Batchelder about installation of pilings now that beaver dam has been deconstructed and beaver deceiver in place.

Invasive Removal – Pam attempted to contact abutter regarding spraying of invasive species, abutter not present or not responding. Syd will contact Tracy Degnan about issue.

Unauthorized use by abutter – Syd and Vanessa to go to site to view disturbance and stone wall removal.

Forestry – Syd talked to Charlie Moreno who will try and contact foresters about cutting for habitat improvement.

Sign Designs – signs were presented by Robert Chase. Orange and black \$274 + \$20 for aluminum nails. Black, white and red \$384 + \$20. People preferred the orange design. Syd will talk to SPNHF about paying for half. Skip and Cindy Neal completed restoration work and sign to be re-installed.

Trail Committee has been working on blazing at Hodges and Meeting Hill. Trail committee met with abutters adjacent to land off of Wild Pasture Road. Abutters have agreed to work with Trail Committee for a year. There was a breach of a beaver dam and the immediate community repaired the breach.

3. Pond on Drinkwater Road

The pond has been degraded. It has been historically used as skating and fire pond. Commission investigated dredging of pond. Beavers are now in culvert. Sue Varn addressed her concerns, past conversations with NH DES and PEA. Vegetation growth is increasing. Dave Buxton and Chief Kane have been to site working on beaver control. Sue Varn will be contacting wetlands specialist. Vanessa will be meeting with Chief Kane.

4. Moulton Ridge Town Property

Trail sign reclamation has been completed. Deer stands are on town property. Notes have been placed to on deer stands to remove from town property.

Application for grant by trails committee will be tabled for next year due to deadlines.

5. Pollinator Pathways

Andy discussed partnership with Pollinator Pathways and writing article for Community News. Committee discussed Facebook website for Commission to present information. Pam has been working with Elementary school establishing butterfly garden.

Commission discussed Facebook pages for the Town of Kensington and the Commission.

6. 152 Drinkwater Road

Wetland violation next to road has been restored. DES has approved restoration.

7. Unitil Hazard Tree Removal

Public meeting is June 16th for tree cutting on scenic roads. Meeting will be by Zoom. Unitil has to present to the Planning Board. Committee discussed past cutting, material left on sight, landowners own trees and can object to cutting, historical loss of power due to tree limbs, duty of utility to maintain reliable grid system, are there alternatives on scenic roads.

8. Denise Perkins signed 5 year contract for cutting on hay on Great Brook property. Discussion of having a calendar system alerting the town to deadlines.

9. Diversity and Equity Efforts

Historically teachers have taken students to the pond off Trundle Bed Road to collect samples and analyze. Recently a person of color had taken students to the site and had also contacted the town about providing the town the data that was available regarding the pond site. The teacher was at the site alone when Kensington Police arrived on the site to question the teacher. The Commission discussed what Kensington could do be more welcoming to and inclusive to all to the town. The Commission discussed signage and meeting with the Selectboard for further discussion.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm.