

Kensington Conservation Commission

September 16, 2020

Zoom Meeting due to Covid 19

Members Present: Sydnee Goddard, Bob Gustafson, Andrew Roberts, Joan Skewes

Trails Committee: Robert Chase

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

1. The Commission reviewed the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and approved.
2. Hodges – Bridge Construction- Set- back issue, whether a set- back pertains to the foot bridge has been sent to Julie LaBranche at the Rockingham County Planning Commission. The set- back requirement does not apply to town property.

Bridge Construction from Sawyer Park to Hodges - the estimate for bridge construction was costly. Pressure treated lumber has doubled in cost. Joe Hickey has offered the use of his materials from decking. This would be a short term solution for a the trail bridge from Sawyer Park to the Hodges property. There would be no permanent footing.

Bridge Construction off Moulton Ridge – the property line runs along the stone wall and the beaver has created a dam with the rock wall. The stream is now 50 feet wide and the beaver continues to be active. Bridge construction will be expensive due to the height of the arch above the water line. The other option is to use stones but it is dependent upon beaver not damming up the stream, however the challenge is getting the equipment to site to place stones. The other option is the bridge construction proposed by Batchelder. The Commission will further study the issue.

Walk with Charlie Moreno at Hodges to review forest cutting. The intent is to manage a multi-age forest with open areas. What has been left are samples of old trees that will provide seedlings for future growth. Beech trees that were taking over the canopy were removed. There will need to be follow- up to deal with beech seedlings and stump sprouts. There is some concern about increased bikes activity with the increased open space.

No Hunting Signs - Skip Heal has posted signs at access points onto the property. Robert Chase is working on organizing people to place signs along perimeter of the property. Robert Chase will contact Charlie Moreno about taking down additional beech trees.

The Commission discussed updating the Forest Management Plan given the cuts on the property, issues with beech trees, wholly adelgid activity on the Hemlock trees.

3. Moulton Ridge Town Property – The letter of agreement is to be reviewed by the Selectboard.

4. Pollinator Pathways – Syd went to two field sessions to view pollinator gardens at the Kingston Library and an herb and butterfly garden.
5. Community News – The Commission discussed potential articles about bridge construction for trails, status of the conservation easement for the Moulton Ridge property.
6. 152 Drinkwater Road Department of Environmental Services (DES) has indicated the wetland reclamation for the front portion of the property has been completed. That site will be re-visited in 2021 to assess the plant material.
7. White Property, transfer to town, tabled.
8. Other business- Susan Varn has contacted DES regarding the pond on Drinkwater Road. DES provided the names of people who have experience in pond reclamation.

Andy discussed preparing a spreadsheet of conservation property and the uses allowed on the property. Information is also contained in the Natural Resource Inventory.

9. Meeting adjourned 8:39 p.m.