

Kensington Conservation Commission

April 21, 2020

Zoom Meeting / Covid 19

Members Present: Sydnee Goddard, Robert Gustafson, Pam Holland, Joan Skewes

Selectperson: Vanessa Rozier

New members – not sworn in: Courtney Preneta and Andy Roberts

1. Minutes, no minutes to review

2. Moulton Ridge Town Land

Jeremy Louge from SELT attended the meeting to discuss next steps to proceed with work involved in protecting the town property with a Conservation Easement. By town vote the warrant article passed to provide funding of \$25,000. The remaining \$25,000 to be funded by monies from the Conservation Fund.

Jeremy indicated that a Letter of Agreement describes the town's and SELT's responsibilities. SELT would be the project manager. SELT would defer to town counsel if issues arise which would be unlikely given that the land was acquired in a tax sale. The Letter of Agreement needs to be signed before work is to proceed. Before the Letter of Agreement is signed the Commission needs to approve funding from the Conservation Fund which will require a public meeting.

3. Treating of Invasive Species at Hodges

Swallow wort needs an additional treatment. The abutting property owners need to be contacted to address this invasive on their property. Since we are treating the plant on town land in order to control the invasive, the abutting property should also be treated. The estimate for invasive species control on town land is \$895 for two treatments, the first in May/June and the second again in August/September. Pam to contact the abutter to address treating on their property as well. The Commission voted to expend \$895 from the Hodges Trust to pay Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for the invasive species control. Syd will contact the Society for Protection of NH Forest regarding reimbursing the Commission 50% of the cost.

4. Treatment of Invasive Species at the town Salt Shed

The grant from RCCD has been approved for treatment of invasive species at the town's salt shed. Permit to be signed by the Selectboard. Syd will contact RCCD about Best Management Practices training.

5. Pond on Drinkwater Road

Dave Buxton contacted Syd about beaver impoundment at the pond on Drinkwater Road. Pam will investigate another beaver trapper since the first individual has not returned calls.

6. Moulton Ridge Property

Pam has observed a lean-to and fire pit constructed on the property. The Commission discussed the dangers of an illegal fire and the lean-to constructed adjacent to an old cellar wall. Also discussed was potential ATV traffic onto the property and a tree stand located possibly on the property- it is not clear since the property has yet to be surveyed. Pam to talk to Fire Chief True and Syd to contact Police Chief Kane regarding how to address these issues. Vanessa suggested making recommendations to the Selectboard who can act on those suggestions.

7. Build Out Plan

The warrant article to fund a Build Out Plan did not pass by town vote. The Commission discussed reviewing scope of work. The issue was tabled.

8. Pollinator Pathways

A presentation was made at the February meeting to provide feeding ground for the pollinators, bees, moths, butterflies, etc. Andy to contact the Pollinator Pathway representative to discuss further educational opportunities.

9. Newsletter

Robert and Courtney to work on writing an article from the Commission for the town newsletter. The Commission discussed a Thank You to the town's voters and update on our collaboration with SELT and Thank You to voters for accepting donated lands.

10. Trails

Syd discussed obtaining permission from Brewers to cross property onto Hodges. Also discussed creating path around the back field at Hodges to eliminate traffic running through the field.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm.