

Kensington Conservation Commission

October 10, 2023

Members Present: Pam Holland, Joan Skewes, Syd Goddard, Robert Gustafson, Andy Roberts

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

1. Sherrie Trefry, representative from Eversource was present to discuss the work required on the power line in Kensington off Highland Road. A pole needs to be replaced which requires crossing wetland. The new pole will have a cement foundation and be bolted to the foundation eliminating the need for guide wires. Replacement will be in kind. The wetland between the road and structure is populated the invasive phragmites. Upslope there is more natural vegetation. The Commission expressed concern of spreading the phragmites. Vehicles involved will be cranes and pallet trucks. Timber mats will be used as temporary crossings. Several layers of mats will be stacked in very poorly drained soils. The project may require a standard dredge and fill, Eversource is meeting with DES. Current discussion with DES is that in very poorly drained soils timber mats may not be thought of a temporary, discussion of using rock fords which would allow water flow. If a standard dredge and fill application is required the Commission has 14 days to submit a comment. Current timing of project would start in June 2024. Syd to draft a letter to the Zoning Board with concerns about the spread of phragmites.
2. SELT and Rider Property – draft minutes to be amended. As of 9/29/23 East Kingston Conservation Commission had not yet voted in favor of expending \$100,000.00 for the Rider project.
3. Budget 2024 – The Commission voted to keep the Commission budget the same as 2023.
4. Possible Warrant Article – Pam to meet with East Kingston Conservation Commission to discuss the process they took to pass a warrant article for funding.
5. John Clark appraisal – The Commission discussed the need to review the legal cost of acquiring the White property. Clark land is 4 acres surrounded by conservation land on 3 sides. Property is landlocked and adjacent to Hodges and White which was donated land.
6. Moulton Ridge -Beaver activity. Beaver deceiver was installed, however beaver control requires constant maintenance. Pam will be responding to the town inquiry.
7. Other business- Syd to request signs for sensitive area/ sensitive habitat -stay on trail.

8. Hodges Forest Management – Syd talked to forester Charlie Moreno about beech management. Commission discussed cutting beech saplings and paint with chemical control. Commission would rather have the beech saplings cut. Syd made motion to expend half of the \$750 cost, (other half would come from the Forest Society) for forest inventory. All in favor.
9. Commission discussed new town volunteer – who could help with organizational work.
10. Department Space Requirement- Pam to complete questionnaire. Commission discussed staffing and that documents should be digitized.
11. Conservation Next Steps – tabled.
12. Minutes approved as amended.
13. Next meeting November 14, 2023.
14. Syd made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned.