

Conservation Commission Meeting

January 24, 2024

Members present: Brad Jones, Allison Knab, Dan MacAuliffe, Bill McCarthy, Chris West

Non-members present: Mark Connors, Town Planner

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes:

- Mr. Jones motioned, Ms. West seconded a motion to approve the October 25th public and nonpublic minutes as written. All voted in favor. Ms. Knab motioned, Mr. Jones seconded a motion to approve the November 29th minutes as written. All voted in favor.

Commission Updates

Bill Kenny has stepped down as chair and from the Commission due to a change in his work schedule. Ms. Knab motioned, Ms. Knab seconded a motion to appoint Bill McCarthy interim chair. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Saltonstall is the current vice chair. Mr. McCarthy suggested that the position of secretary rotate amongst the members. We will revisit the officer roles following Town Meeting, as is usual.

Mailbox

- Monitoring report, 45 Bunker Hill Avenue (Sanderson). There is an old campsite that remains a concern because of the debris left behind. RCCD would recommend the landowner post the area to no trespassing. Mr. Connors will discuss the issue with the code enforcement officer. Mr. MacAuliffe said that he would be willing to help track easement monitoring.
- SELT thank you card for Zarnowsky property.
- SELT Everlasting newsletter

Funding for PREP

The town historically provided funding for PREP (Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership), but stopped in 2020 (combination of pandemic and recommendation of BAC). PREP has asked us to renew funding the organization. Historically we gave approximately \$9000 annually from the town; PREP is currently well funded by federal funds but is concerned about the future. Ms. Knab suggested funding \$2000 for 2024 out of the Conservation Commission budget line, which could absorb that amount. Ms. West motioned to support PREP at \$2000 out of the Conservation Commission budget, Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Caroline Robinson

Ms. Knab noted that the library has recently hosted a seed library and other gardening events. She would like to again provide the library with donations related to Caroline Robinson. Mr. MacAuliffe motioned, Ms. West seconded the motion to donate \$200 to the library for books or other items inspired by Caroline Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Space Connectivity Plan

There will be a public outreach event around the Open Space and Connectivity Plan on Monday, February 12th. This will introduce town residents to the results of the plan.

Ross Brothers Property

We have received a grant of \$16,950 from the Local Source Water Protection Grant program toward the purchase of the Ross Brothers parcel (Tax Map 18, Lot 41). This is in addition to the \$91,950 received from the Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund. Ms. West motioned that we indicate support for accepting the recent grant to the Select Board, Mr. MacAuliffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The brothers have signed a Purchase and Sale agreement with the town. There was a discussion of what color blazes could be used on the trees on the property.

Other Business

- The Pace property has closed.
- The federal grant has been submitted to NOAA for the Stuart Farm property.
- Mr. Connors provided updates on zoning amendments and projects in front of the Planning Board.
- TMAC has been meeting. They have been using “breadboards” to remind people that dogs have to be on leashes in certain areas. The recreation director has been working to repair bridges and other issues in the park.

At 7:52 p.m. Mr. MacAuliffe motioned, Ms. West seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, February 28, 2024.*

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab