

Minutes
Kingston Conservation Commission
3/7/2024

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm at the Kingston Community Library

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, Linda Foss, Shaw Tilton, Bob Smith

Excused Absences: Greg Senko, Elizabeth Mello, Charles Hart

Guests: Jeff Sluder, Walt Roy

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 2/8/24 meeting were reviewed. MM&S to accept the minutes as written, all in favor. MM&S to accept the minutes from December 2023 and January 2024, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Conservation Fund: \$26,169.23

(Working Balance \$12,573.23, Aquatic Invasives Reserve \$13,596.00)

Forest Fund: \$17,456.40

- Shaw noted that the current balance does not include budget rollover from 2023, nor does it include nearly \$900 in donations to Pollinator Pathways that are pending Select Board approval.

Correspondence:

- Christine Bunyon of FB Environmental Associates. Email with the results of their watershed survey which identifies and ranks the nonpoint source sites for phosphorus pollution in the watershed including Great Pond, Greenwood Pond, and Long Pond. The report also provides recommendations on how to reduce runoff and erosion at those sites.
- Leah Catania of 9 Long Pond Road. Email requesting information on whether fill could be used to level a low area on her property. Evy sent the shoreland protection ordinance and responded that the address is within the 300' shoreland protection buffer. Evy has not received a reply.
- Vicki Brown of East Kingston Conservation Commission. Email expressing concern regarding the proposed development at 50 Depot Road. This property is part of a major wildlife corridor identified by The Nature Conservancy's Connect the Coast initiative, and falls within the East Kingston aquifer, making East Kingston a town of regional impact.

Planning Board, DES, OEP, ZBA:

- 50 Depot Road Conceptual Site Plan. The plan proposes a major development including 76 townhouse condos, 68 1- and 2-bedroom apartments distributed across 6 apartment buildings, and 512 parking spaces. The site has numerous wetlands and streams, and a

significant portion of the property falls within a major wildlife corridor identified by The Nature Conservancy's Connect the Coast initiative. Shaw informed Conservation that the developer has two variance requests pending approval with the ZBA, and that the ZBA has referred the project to the Rockingham Planning Commission for a regional impact study.

Comments: Conservation will monitor this project very carefully to ensure that wetlands are protected and that buffer values are correctly calculated according to Kingston's point system. Conservation is also concerned that a project of this magnitude would have a significant negative impact on wildlife.

- 57 Depot Road. Conceptual Design Review. This plan proposes a 55+ development of 64 homes and a 9-hole golf course on the site of the former Kingston Fairways golf course.

Comments: While a significant portion of the site was formerly developed for commercial purposes, the southeast corner of the lot is part of an extensive wetland network and wildlife corridor. Conservation will carefully review the proposed wetland buffers, both for the residential community and the golf course, to ensure the wetlands will remain undisturbed.

- Verizon Wireless cell tower off Hunt Road.

Comments: Conservation will send comments expressing concern about this tower being erected on a southeast sandy slope adjacent to a significant wetland complex. Therefore it is a prime turtle nesting area, and there are likely threatened and endangered turtles in the area. NH Fish & Game should be consulted.

- 50 Frye Road intent to cut.

Comments: No comment.

New & Ongoing Business:

- Forest Management Plan. Evy distributed a copy of the new Valley Lane Town Forest forestry map. She and Greg and sent brief comments to Ron, there were no further comments from Conservation on the plan.
- Fairgrounds Study Group update. Evy reported that the latest meeting was attended by several Folly Brook Terrace residents who had concerns about traffic, parking, lighting, noise and security at the proposed event site. It was agreed that events would have to end by 10 pm, however there is no electric power supply to the proposed event site, so after dark lighting would need to be addressed as a safety issue. Evy created a video entitled "Why we love the Fairgrounds" highlighting the conservation value of the property and has been promoting eco-friendly uses. Phil Coombs will present the group's suggestions to the Select Board.
- Bob Smith announced that he will be moving out of Kingston this spring, and that the April meeting will be his last. The Conservation Commission sincerely thanks Bob for his years of dedicated service to conservation efforts in our town.

Prime Wetlands:

- Evy identified several sites for potential prime wetlands designation, including Bayberry Pond, Camp Lincoln, the area around Folly Brook Terrace, and the area south of Tucker and French Family Forest. Evy proposed Bayberry Pond as the first site in Kingston for Prime Wetlands designation. The prime wetlands designation is given to wetlands based on several criteria, including size, unspoiled character, and the presence of rare or threatened animal and plant species. Evy has contacted Seekamp Environmental Consulting to ask about obtaining a Natural Resources Inventory for Bayberry Pond to start the process.

Trails Committee:

- Greg Senko was unable to attend this meeting.
- Evy asked that Trails add re-painting of Valley Lane boundary blazes to their 2024 activities, as it was recommended by Ron Klemarczyk in the new Forest Management Plan. Invasive plants at the trailhead also need to be addressed.
- When Greg returns we will need to meet with Chief Pellerin re: fire access.
- Amanda Elms of SELT contacted us re: removing fill at Acorn. Evy forwarded her email to Greg.

Pollinator Pathways:

- There has been a lot activity on the PPNH Facebook page. This spring it will feature focus pieces on PPNH members and volunteers.
- The Greenland Conservation Commission voted to join PPNH as the 14th town.
- Vick Motz's Abenaki medicinal plant presentation at the library was filled to capacity.
- PPNH will present to the Newmarket Garden Club on March 11.
- Patty Davidson's pollinator garden planning event on March 16 is already filled to capacity.
- Stratham public schools has reached out for information on educating kids and adults.
- The Exeter Library seed library has been revitalized thanks to Kristen, Jodi and PPNH.
- The Rockingham Herb Society presentation is on hold due to scheduling conflicts.
- The Castle in the Clouds presentation is being considered.

Upcoming events:

- Greenland Women's Club, April 6
- Seed Library Kickoff April 27 10 am – noon
- Library Plant Sale/Alewife Festival/Bedford Garden Club May 11
- Medicine Garden Walk at Vicki Motz's home in Deering May 29
- Pollinator Week wildflower walk and other events June 17 – 21

Old Business/Bucket List:

- Edit and reprint Trail Passport for Youth, Linda suggested eliminating maps.
- Book of Conserved Properties/Granit – Evy still needs help.
- Handout for town: Land use regulations and water protection.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next meeting Thursday, April 4, 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foss, Secretary