

Town of East Kingston Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting October 10, 2022

The CC meeting was Called to Order at 5:02pm.

Members Present: Vicki Brown, Julie Ostopchuk, Dennis Quintal

Absent: Adam Barss, Gordon Powers

Guest: John Pastore, residing on Stumpfield Rd.

Approved.
11-14-22
CJQ

Minutes from September 12, 2022 were reviewed and approved with a typo corrected.

Correspondence:

1. Conservation Budget as of 8-31-22. Balance of \$5,264 in milfoil budget; and \$262.67 in conservation fund.
2. NHACC September e-News.
3. 8-29-22 note of appreciation from Kelly Ackford, studymap.org youth services librarian, for our conservation resources list on our web page and a request to add this link to our list: <https://www.playgroundequipment.com/outdoor-play-learn-about-conservation/>. We agreed to do so.
4. 9-27-22 email from Vicki Brown summarizing the 9-27 Conservation Commission Roundtable groundwater discussion.
5. 9-28-22 email from Deb Munson with questions for conservation easements program panelists.
6. 9-30-22 email by Vicki brown summarizing the 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan workshop by the Connect-to-Protect team.
7. 10-3-22 email listing potential contractors leads for Powwow restoration work from Vicki Brown. The referrals were courtesy of Kingston Conservation Commission chair Evy Nathan and Exeter's Natural Resource Planner Kristen Murphy.
8. 10-5-22 email from Tracy Degnan of Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) about oriental bittersweet removal at the Railroad Parcel, proposing 10-24 for on-site visit.
9. 10-7-22 email from UNH Extension's Amanda Stone offering technical assistance for Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan. Applications are due Nov. 9, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Carter property at 68 South Road. Upcoming Public Hearing with the Select Board may be the first or second Select Board meeting in November.
2. Bank Restoration. Plan given to local contractor Michael Paul for bid. Dennis will share the restoration plan and other documents with several other potential bidders.
3. Powwow Restoration Warrant Article. We reviewed the draft written by Julie Ostopchuk.
4. Bank Restoration Fundraising. We received no additional donations this past month. We discussed additional ways to engage residents and secure more donations. Julie suggested working with teachers at EKES. Residents can donate via at <https://4everbricks.com/donors/ekcc/>.
5. Conservation Priorities List. Dennis will review Gordon's prioritized list and add comments about other factors which would increase a property's conservation value. We agreed to postpone this topic again until the November meeting.
6. Protect it or Lose It Communications.
 - a. "Conserve your Land: Protect Your Legacy" program on Weds. Oct. 12 at 5pm
 - b. Landowner letter mailing. Gordon sent to landowners for delivery the week of Sept. 19
 - c. East Kingston Farmers' Market Sept. 18. EKCC's table was present & visible.
 - d. Flyers were posted around town by Gordon.
 - e. Monahan Farm plaque. TBD pending discussion with SELT.
 - f. Media coverage/promotion. Oct. 12 conservation easements program featured in Carriage Towne News (both print and online), in EK Edition, on Nature Groupie, and on many Facebook groups & pages.

- g. EKCC table at library. We agreed at a previous meeting to feature both Conservation Easement and Powwow Bank Restoration materials. Topic tabled.
- h. Digital message "Conserve your land - Protect our town". Tabled - for when we have the town article.
- 7. Warrant article v2. Dennis has not yet shared the warrant article with the Select Board. We discussed the need to develop supporting documents and a multi-page package (in powerpoint form), to include the list of 16 conserved properties (and ~564 acres) since 2004, as well as details of other town's conservation efforts, prior to the deliberative session in February 2023. Dennis recommended we contact the Planning Board for any needed info/data on the town.
- 8. Pollinator Pathways NH. PPNH will exhibit at SELT's TrailFest on Saturday Oct. 15 with milkweed seeds and a Trail Tale. The annual seed exchange is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9am-2pm at Kingston Rec Center.
- 9. EK Edition topic. We agreed to submit an article about the brick fundraiser. Matt Freeman also offered to write an article summarizing the conservation easements program on Oct. 12. Vicki offered to send both EK Edition articles to the editor at Carriage Towne News as well.
- 10. Town Forest Management. We agreed to meet RCCD at the town's Railroad Lot on Monday Oct. 24 to enable RCCD to ask questions and gather the info they need to develop a proposal for oriental bittersweet removal there.
- 11. EKCC brick donation. Tabled decision on which year's budget to pay for this.
- 12. Watershed Conservation Plan. We discussed adding coastal priority agricultural resources and coastal conservation focus areas info as 5th and 6th factors in prioritizing our town's >10 acre properties. We discussed and agreed to request technical assistance from the Connect to Protect team; Vicki will submit the EKCC application before the 11/9 deadline. We tabled a discussion about whether we should recommend a conservation overlay district that includes our priority parcels in town to the Select Board & Planning Board.

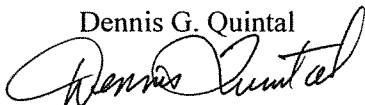
NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Litter Pick Up on Haverhill Road. We agreed to do litter pickup on Friday, Oct. 21.
- 2. Kingston Fairways property at 54 Depot Rd in Kingston is for sale for \$4.1M. Though the address is in Kingston, 30 of the 113 acres are in East Kingston. Dennis said conservation easements are difficult to affect once a property has been put on the market.
- 3. 2023 Conservation Commission Budget. The milfoil budget is \$6,000/year and we agreed to keep it the same. The conservation fund budget has stayed flat at \$1,000/year for 4+ years and we agreed to triple it for next year to cover increased expenses related to land conservation and Powwow Bank Restoration initiatives.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission is Scheduled for Nov. 14, 2022 at 5:00PM

Respectfully submitted;

Dennis G. Quintal



Time Adjourned: 6:43pm