

Town of East Kingston Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting June 19, 2023

APPROVED
7-10-23


The CC meeting was Called to Order at 5:04pm.

Members Present: Adam Barss, Vicki Brown, Gordon Powers, Brooke Petrucelli

Absent: Julie Ostopchuk, Dennis Quintal

Minutes from May 8, 2023. Gordon made a motion to approve; Adam seconded. PUNA.

Correspondence:

1. NHPDIP statement for month ending April 30, 2023: \$8.57 in interest and total in account = \$2,153.90.
2. 5-9-23 email about NHDES Powwow Pond Milfoil Survey. Milfoil removal to begin on May 29th with 4 of 5 days in East Kingston (where 80% of the milfoil was found). Cost to East Kingston is \$3,120 (50% of the total \$6,240, reduced by the 50% grant from NHDES).
3. 5-15-23, 5-18-23 & 5-22-23 emails from Jeremy Lougee requesting EKCC's signature for Rider appraisal.
4. 5-16-23 Email from Dennis Quintal about Safety fence at Railroad Lot.
5. 5-22-23 Housing Needs Assessment Survey request from Julie LaBranche for EK Planning Board.
6. 5-23-23 Fully executed (signed) appraisal agreement from Stark & Webster Valuations, LLC for Rider property from SELT's Jeremy Lougee. Final appraisal report is expected in 5-6 weeks (~July 4).
7. 5-23-23 acknowledgement of receipt of comments for SELT reaccreditation from LTAC's Stacy Girmincl.
8. 5-23-23 Thank you from SELT's Brian Hart for submitting comments for SELT's reaccreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC).
9. 6-2-23 Site visit report (draft) from EKPb for 9 Bowley Road (New England Outdoor Materials) wetlands intrusion complaints & haul road. We discussed our concerns.
10. 6-12-23 EKCC Expense Report for May 2023 from Grace Ruelle.
11. 6-16-23 Invitation to Apply for \$10K toward soil Health on protected agland from American Farmland Trust's [National Agricultural Land Network](#).
12. 6-19-23 \$400 invoice from IPM of NH, LLC for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) trunk injection for the white ash tree in the South Street cemetery.

ACTION ITEMS from 5-8-23:

1. Vicki – inform IPM of NH, LLC about selection for ash tree treatment. Complete.
2. Brooke Anne – promote Bird Walk via flyers, EK Edition & CTN, etc. Complete.
3. Vicki – draft letter from EKCC in support of SELT's reaccreditation. Complete
4. Gordon – update Conservation Property Priorities list as discussed. Complete
5. Dennis – share EKCC's recommendation for a safety fence at the RR parcel with Select Board. Complete.
6. Julie – contact EKES principal about mural project. ??

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Debrief EK Bird Walk June 3 & June 10. Article [Birding in East Kingston](#) in CTN 6-14-23.
2. Cemetery ash tree treatment. Completed by IPM of NH, LLC on 5-22-23. Brooke Anne motioned to pay the \$400 invoice out of the Conservation Budget; Adam seconded. PUNA
3. Safety fence at RR Parcel. Tabled pending Julie's discussion with the Railroad.
4. Mural project at town's RR parcel. Tabled.
5. RR Lot invasives removal by RCCD. RCCD's Tracy Degnan said the RR lot invasives removal will be late July or August.
6. June 18 EK Summer Market. Brooke Anne managed the EKCC table. Nearly 30 vendors exhibited. Visitors to the EKCC table added mammals, birds and insects to the poster board asking "What have you seen?"

7. EK Summer Market coverage. Confirmed Vicki on July 16 and Gordon on August 27.
8. Conservation Properties Prioritization. Gordon shared the updated parcels list. Brooke Anne agreed to tackle column G (Scenic/Historical/Misc) and Vicki will ask Coastal Wetlands Technical Assistance team to help on the Water Supply Potential column (column F).
9. Bank Restoration and Town Warrant Article 16. Discussion & RFP. Tabled.
10. EKCC brick fundraising. No update.
11. Carter property at 68 South Road.
12. Rider property. Appraisal in process and expected back ~July 4.
13. Pollinator Pathways NH. Celebrating Pollinator Week June 19-25 with events in Hampstead and Kingston, including a bioblitz and photo contest. See posts at facebook.com/pollinatorpathwaysnh
11. EK Edition topic(s). Articles published June 1: Lily Pads on the Powwow by Gordon & Brooke's EKCC membership by Vicki. For July 1 -- Bird programs June 3 & 10 by Vicki.
12. EKCC in the News: [Birding in East Kingston](#) in Carriage Towne News 6-14-23.
13. Web updates at eknh.org/conservation-commission

NEW BUSINESS:

1. EKCC "Kayak the Powwow" program. We discussed liability and logistics and agreed on tentative dates of Saturday Aug. 26 and a rain date of Sat., Sept. 9, both from 11am-1pm. Gordon will follow up with the town to secure permissions, etc.
2. Japanese Knotweed. Noted as an increasing problem in town which should be addressed.
3. Proposed NH DES wetlands regulation changes. EKCC is concerned that proposed NH DES wetlands regulations requiring numerous signatures prior to any Conservation Commission site visit (currently permitted with the signatures on the permit) is "problematic at best and prohibitive at worst." We agreed to communicate our concerns to NHACC by June 30 and to NH DES as public comment by 4pm July 10; Adam will draft the letter for review.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023.

ACTION ITEMS:

Time Adjourned: _6:21pm

1. Adam – draft letter from EKCC to NH DES about proposed wetlands regulation requiring numerous signatures prior to any CC site visit
2. (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal about mural project
3. (from 5-8-23) Julie – ask the Railroad questions posed by the EK Select Board about the proposed safety fence
4. Vicki – ask Coastal Wetlands Technical Assistance team for help on the water supply column for the Conservation Properties Priority List
5. Brooke – tackle the "Scenic/cultural/historical" factor in the Conservation Priorities list
6. Gordon – secure town permission & manage logistics to do EKCC program, Kayak on the Powwow
7. Gordon – consider sending "Lily pads on the Powwow" article to Carriage Towne News
8. Vicki – set up and staff table at EK Summer Market on Sunday July 16, 10am-2pm
9. Gordon – set up and staff table at EK Summer Market on Sunday August 27, 10am-2pm

Respectfully submitted;

Dennis G. Quintal

