

Town of East Kingston Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting November 13, 2023

APPROVED
12-11-23
DG

The CC meeting was Called to Order at 5:00pm.

Members Present: Vicki Brown, Julie Ostopchuk, Brooke Petrucelli, Gordon Powers, Dennis Quintal

Members Absent: Adam Barss

Minutes from October 9, 2023. Vicki made a motion to approve; Gordon seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 (4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain due to absence last month).

Correspondence:

- 10-10-23 Three bank restoration options emailed by EKCC member Julie Ostopchuk (for discussion).:
 - <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/blogs/watershed/?p=1144>
 - <https://www.geogrow.com/news/warm-brook-river-bank-repairs>
 - <https://mountvernonohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/FAQ-Kokosing-River-restoration-Project-1.pdf>
- 10-16-23 NHACC notice of new NH wetlands rule updates effective October 13, 2023.
- 10-17-23 Notice of Powwow Pond Council Annual Meeting Nov 1 at 7:30pm at the Kingston Library.
- 10-27-23 Email from Holly Amaral about lack of trail in Welch Lot off of Clements Lane.
- RCCD easement report for Railroad Lot on 10-30-23 citing bottle digging and tree destabilization as concerns.
- RCCD easement report for Parsonage Lot citing dumped compost and evergreen trees as areas of concern.
- 10-31-23 notification of Powwow Pond Council's annual meeting on 11/1/23.
- 10-18-23 NHPDIP statement for month ending 9-30-23 balance is \$2,201.65 interest was \$9.80.
- 11-8-23 NHPDIP statement for month ending 10-31-23 balance \$2,211.86 interest was \$10.21.
- 10-18-23 NHACC Annual Membership Invoice \$250.00. Vicki made a motion and Brooke seconded that we pay this out of our conservation budget. PUNA (passed unanimously).
- 10-23-23 Monitoring Report from RCCD for the Richard A. Smith Easement, Current Owner R.E. Smith Trust, 129 Sanborn Road. Areas noted flooded and invasive species.
- Monitoring Report from RCCD for the Marcella Easement, Current Owner Richard and Mary Marcella, 11 Haverhill Road. Noted small brush pile and areas of invasive species.
- Monitoring Report from RCCD for the EK Welch Lot, Clements Lane. Noted areas flooded and areas of invasive species. Tire tracks (parking area) turn around? Recommend No "Motorized Vehicles" sign be set.
- Monitoring Report from RCCD for the O'Shea Easement, Owner contact: Sheryl MacLeod, 17 Stumpfield Road. Noted piles of wood and areas of Invasive Species.
- 11-9-23 Map of water factors in East Kingston from NHFG's Lynn Vaccaro for conservation prioritization.
- 11-12-23 Conservation easement interest by Dawn LeSage at 2 Deer Run Rd. Dennis emailed her an invitation to join a future EKCC meeting to discuss.

ACTION ITEMS from 10-9-23:

- All – attend Planning Board meeting on Thur., Oct. 19 at 7pm for Rider property and mulch facility. *Dennis, Gordon and Vicki attended.*
- All – attend Rider property conservation easement Public Hearing on Monday Oct. 30 at 6pm. *Dennis, Vicki, Julie, Brooke, Gordon and Adam attended.*
- All – join the Litter pickup on Thursday Nov. 2 at 8am. *Done by Dennis & Vicki.*
- Vicki – draft & submit article for EK Edition. *Done (Pollinator Pathways NH article).*
- Julie – send photos of potential new embankment approach and share with Dennis & EKCC. *Done*
- All – review embankment approaches for discussion at next meeting
- Dennis – rework existing Powwow Bank RFP to incorporate embankment design changes and ready it for review/bidders. *Pending discussion on which embankment design to request.*
- (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal & CSX Railroad about mural project. *Awaiting response.*
- (from 5-8-23) Julie – ask the Railroad for answers to questions posed by the EK Select Board about a proposed safety fence at the town Railroad parcel. *Awaiting response.*
- Brooke – tackle the "Scenic/cultural/historical" factor in the Conservation Priorities list. *Ongoing.*

12. Vicki - work with Coastal Conservation team on data for water supply potential factor for land conservation prioritization. *In process. Received map from NHFG on 11-9-23.*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mueggler Agricultural Trust / Rider conservation project. The Select Board voted 2-1 to approve the EKCC's request for a \$100,000 bond at the 10/30/23 Public Hearing. Site walk 11/2. DWGTF (Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund) decision is 11/20.
2. Carter property at 68 South Road. Subdivision of Layne and Robin's house lot completed. No other action.
3. Bank Restoration RFP & Town Warrant Article. We reviewed restoration options sent by Julie on 10-10-23. Dennis will ask DES what type of modifications will require a DES application resubmission.
4. 9 Bowley Road / New England Outdoor Materials. Midnight Leasing LLC. Planning Board public hearing is continued to Dec. 21 EKPB meeting & will be at EK Elementary School.
5. Conservation Properties Prioritization.
 - a. Water Supply Potential factor. *We agreed to rate a property a 10 if it has any of the 3 water factors.*
 - b. Cultural/historical/scenic factor.
6. Safety fence at RR Parcel. No response from CSX.
7. Mural project at town's RR parcel. No response from CSX.
8. EKCC brick fundraising. No new donations.
9. Pollinator Pathways NH. The 5th annual seed swap on Nov. 11, 2023 in Kingston was thronged.
10. EK Edition topic(s). Gordon will submit EKCC's sponsorship of Barry Conservation Campers in summer 2024

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NHACC presentation "How East Kingston Passed a Conservation Bond Warrant Article" on 11/4/23.
2. Conservation easement violations at Railroad Lot (bottle digging) & Parsonage Lot (compost & Christmas tree dumping). Discussed and agreed to take photos to determine options.
3. East Kingston Trails Committee. Three EK residents – Holly Amaral, Amy MacDonald & John Pastore – have offered to volunteer on an EK Trails Committee. We discussed pros and cons of trails in town, with Dennis' main concern being potential litter, dumping and ongoing maintenance costs. We did not reach consensus to move forward.
4. Barry Conservation Camp sponsorship for summer 2024. We agreed to sponsor summer campers in 2024. Gordon will help promote it in EK Edition and CTN when Dennis gets the announcement.
5. East Kingston Tax Increase. *We haven't borrowed any money at this time so the increase in taxes this year is not a result of conservation.* The \$4M conservation bond warrant article provides the Select Board with the ability to borrow money using a municipal bond; however, no new bonds have been issued since Monahan Farm in 2017.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11, 2023.

ACTION ITEMS:

Time Adjourned: 6:32pm

1. Gordon – EK Edition article about Barry Camp sponsorship.
2. Dennis – for Powwow project, ask DES what types of modifications would require an application resubmission.
3. Dennis – take photos at Parsonage Lot of compost and Christmas tree dumping cited in the easement report.
4. (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal & CSX Railroad about mural project. *A*
5. (from 5-8-23) Julie – ask the Railroad for answers to questions posed by the EK Select Board about a proposed safety fence at the town Railroad parcel.
6. Brooke – tackle the "Scenic/cultural/historical" factor in the Conservation Priorities list. *Ongoing.*
7. Vicki & Gordon – schedule working session and input ratings data for water potential factor on "Buildable Parcels >10 acres" conservation priorities list.

Respectfully submitted;

Dennis G. Quintal

