

Town of East Kingston Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting January 8, 2024

APPROVED
2-12-24

The CC meeting was Called to Order at 5:12 pm.

Members Present: Adam Barss, Vicki Brown, Julie Ostopchuk, Brooke Petrucelli, Dennis Quintal

Members Absent: Gordon Powers

Minutes from December 11, 2023. Dennis made a motion to approve; Vicki seconded. PUNA (passed unanimously).

Correspondence:

1. Barry Conservation Camp sponsorship. Applications were due Jan. 8, 2024. One student, 14-year-old Jack Gannon, applied; he is interested in attending the Junior Conservation Officer Camp in August. Dennis sent the information to Andy Schafermeyer, Camp Administrator.
2. Dennis sent a note requesting that remaining monies, which amount to \$4,601, be transferred to EKCC Fund.
3. Request from BOS for 2023 Year-End Report – no later than January 10, 2024. We reviewed the draft report. Vicki made a motion to approve the report with 3 minor changes; Brooke seconded it. PUNA.
4. 12-19-23 Email from Russ Chute regarding projected cost for Milfoil Treatment in 2024. Total cost will be \$45,540. With Grant monies from DES and the Kingston sharing the cost, the EK share of the projected cost is \$6,858. We will be responsible for that amount.
5. 12-22-23 Connect to Protect application opportunity. We will pass this year on applying for another grant.
6. 12-26-23 Thank you email from Barbara Richter Executive Director at NHACC for renewing membership.
7. 1-2-24 re: Mueggler Agricultural Trust / Rider conservation project. Notice from Jeremy Lougee that NHDES confirmed the grant request for \$25K towards the Rider Project from the Local Source Water Protection Project (pending approval from Governor & Council; it may take a few months to complete the approval process.) This funding is in addition to the DWGTF (Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund) award of \$500K grant on 11/21/23. Awaiting next steps from SELT.
8. 12-15, 12-20 and 1-4-24 Emails from Emily Nichols from NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program (ARMP) who is wondering if we know of local sites that could be used for compensatory mitigation.

ACTION ITEMS from 12-11-23:

1. Vicki – postcard expenses for budget detail to Grace & Dennis. *Complete.*
2. Gordon – EK Edition article about Barry Camp sponsorship. *Complete.*
3. Brooke – Facebook promotion about Barry Camp sponsorship. *Complete.*
4. Dennis – for Powwow project, revise RFP based on EKCC member input, for eventual resubmission to DES
5. (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal & CSX Railroad about mural project.
6. (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.
7. Brooke – tackle the “Scenic/cultural/historical” factor in the Conservation Priorities list. *Ongoing.*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bank Restoration RFP & Town Warrant Article. We discussed changes to the RFP, including metal or stone steps instead of granite and using willow branches instead of stumps. We’ll discuss again at a future meeting. (In Nov. 2023, DES advised we flatten the steep slope & use core logs and willow trees.)
2. Carter property. No update.
3. 9 Bowley Road / Midnight Leasing LLC. EK Planning Board meeting continued to February.
4. Conservation Properties Priorities.
 - i. Water Supply Potential factor. *Complete.*
 - ii. Cultural/historical/scenic factor. *In process.* We discussed the EMMIT database, which costs \$60 for a six-month subscription. Brooke will check to see if the library has access.
 - iii. NEW Weighted map, consolidating all 8 factors. We agreed this will be a useful resource in conjunction with our priorities spreadsheet weighing other factors.

5. Tilton Lane conservation subdivision. Application was presented to the Planning Board on 12/21/23. They will need a Yield Plan and wetland crossing plan for the proposed road extension and lots off Tilton Lane.
6. Safety fence at RR Parcel. No update.
7. Mural project at town's RR parcel. No update.
8. EKCC brick fundraising. No update.
9. Pollinator Pathways NH. January is a great time to sow native seeds, which are available at the Kingston Community Library. The group has joined forces with the CT Pollinator Pathways group.
10. EK Edition topic(s). We have no submission for Feb. 1 issue.
11. 2024 EKCC meetings. Dennis drafted the Public Notice and will post around town.
12. Tax Increase. We discussed whether to proactively communicate *We haven't borrowed any money at this time so the increase in taxes this year is not a result of conservation.*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. EKCC will have a display table at the Deliberative session on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10am-noon, as well as Town Meeting / Voting Day on March 12. We discussed including information on town bonds and when they will be paid off, based on info provided by Grace Ruelle to Dennis in December 2023. For the March 12 display, Julie recommended showing design mock-ups of the Powwow bank restoration.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2024.

ACTION ITEMS:

Time Adjourned: 6:31pm

1. Vicki – inform Amy Smagula of NH DES about milfoil in Blueberry Cove area of EK.
2. Dennis – update Public Notice of 2024 EKCC meetings from Feb. 1 to Feb. 12, 2024.
3. Vicki – ask Select Board if they would consider providing information on town bonds and when they will be paid off at the Deliberative Session on Feb. 3.
4. Julie – create design mock-ups of the Powwow bank restoration for the March 12 EKCC display table.
5. Dennis – for Powwow project, consider discussed revisions to RFP for next meeting's discussion and eventual resubmission to DES.
6. (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal & CSX Railroad about mural project.
7. (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.
8. Brooke – tackle the "Scenic/cultural/historical" factor in the Conservation Priorities list. *Ongoing.*
9. Brooke – ask library if they have access to the EMMIT database for archeological/historical info for the Land Conservation Priorities.

Respectfully submitted;

Dennis G. Quintal

