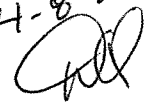


Town of East Kingston Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting March 11, 2024

APPROVED
4-8-24


The CC meeting was Called to Order at 5:01pm

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

Members Absent: Adam Barss

Minutes from February 12, 2024. Brooke made a motion to approve; Dennis seconded. PUNA (passed unanimously).

Correspondence:

1. 2-14-24 notice of next Coastal Conservation Commission Council on Tues, March 26, 8:30-10am. The topic: A Behind-the-Science Look at the Wetland Delineation Process, with Marc Jacobs.
2. 2-19-24 email from Dawn LeSage that the land at 2 Deer Run Road is under agreement.
3. 2-26-24 EKCC provided comments via a letter to the East Kingston Planning Board re: Liberty Common project at 50 Depot Rd, Kingston, stating that "the EK Conservation Commission believes the project would ... negatively impact East Kingston's groundwater and one of its natural features, the northwestern wildlife corridor," and providing info and maps from the Natural Resources Inventory.
4. 2-16-24 and 2-27-24 monthly newsletter and Lunch and Learn series email from NHACC
5. 2-29-24 email that the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund is now accepting pre-proposals for the 2024 grant round. Over \$5.5 million is available; pre-proposals are due May 31. On Friday, March 22, 2024 at 1pm, ARM will host an office hour to provide an overview of the 2024 grant round, application process, targeted projects, and answer questions from potential applicants.
6. 3-5-24 email from SELT's Jeremy Lougee sharing the news that he is leaving SELT to join The Land Trust Alliance; Duane Hyde will be our new contact for the Rider property (aka Mueller Agricultural Trust). Since Duane is joining mid-process, SELT "decided it will be helpful to craft a Letter of Agreement between SELT and each Town to spell out our roles and responsibilities for the remaining steps in the process."
7. 3-6-24 NHACC info to celebrate Earth Day, which is Monday, April 22. Theme is Plastics vs. Planet.
8. 3-7-24 NHACC request for status of Powwow bank restoration project.
9. 3-11-24 notice from EKPL about proposed condo development in Kingston at Fairways golf course.
10. Citizens Account balance at end of January was \$47,175.94, including interest of \$0.39.

ACTION ITEMS from 2-12-24:

1. Vicki – check in on possible conservation easement of 2 Deer Run Rd. *Complete.*
2. Julie – update Powwow bank restoration mock-up poster for EKCC table on March 12 (Voting day). *Using previous one.*
3. Brooke – collaborate with Kirk Elwell and select dates (including a rain date) for one or more birding programs in East Kingston in 2024. *Complete.*
4. Gordon – propose 1 or more dates (with rain dates) for Paddling the Powwow program in summer/fall 2024. *Complete.*
5. Vicki – organize a 2024 conservation easement program and propose dates and speakers. *In process.*
6. Dennis – for Powwow project, revise RFP for review and resubmission to DES. *In process.*
7. (from 5-8-23) Julie – contact EKES principal & CSX Railroad about mural project. *Tabled.*
8. (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. *Tabled.*
9. Brooke – tackle the "Scenic/cultural/historical" factor in the Conservation Priorities list. *In process.*
10. (from 12-11-23) Brooke – ask library if they have access to the EMMIT database for archeological/historical info for the Land Conservation Priorities. *Complete.* We discussed

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Carter property. No longer / not currently a conservation easement option.
2. Mueggler Agricultural Trust. We'll work with SELT's Duane Hyde going forward.
3. 2 Deer Run Road. Under agreement.
4. Tilton Lane conservation subdivision. No news.
5. Proposed Liberty Common project at 50 Depot Rd, Kingston. On Feb. 26, 2024, the EKCC provided comments via a letter to the East Kingston Planning Board stating that "the EK Conservation Commission believes the project would ... negatively impact East Kingston's groundwater and one of its natural features, the northwestern wildlife corridor," and providing info and maps from the Natural Resources Inventory.
6. Bank Restoration RFP & Town Warrant Article. We discussed bank support options, including geotextile fabric (dismissed due to negative wildlife impact) and cost-effective biodegradable tubes of wood chips for plantings.
7. Conservation Properties Priorities.
 - a. Cultural/historical/scenic factor. Brooke is working on this. Neither the East Kingston library or others nearby have access to the EMMIT database. We discussed and voted to pay \$100 for one year access.
 - b. Next Steps. We voted to share the priority list/table with land trust partners (e.g., SELT) when complete.
8. Display at Town Meeting March 12, 2024. We'll show new design mock-ups of the Powwow bank restoration, thanks to Julie. We also discussed coverage of our display/ table.
9. Possible subdivision at 131 North Road – MBL# 16-02-02, discussed by EKPL in Feb. 2024.
10. EKCC programs in 2024.
 - a. An East Kingston Bird Walk with bird expert Kirk Elwell is scheduled for Sat. April 13 at 7:30am-9:30am (Rain Date Sunday, April 14). Thanks to Brooke Petrucelli for organizing and promoting our Bird Walk.
 - b. Conservation Easements Program. In process, pending land trust and easement owner availability. Vicki has confirmed several possible dates in June with the library and Chair Dennis Quintal: Tues June 4 or June 11 at 7pm; Weds June 5 or June 12 at 5pm; or Thur June 6 or June 13 at 7pm. We discussed the title and agreed to change the title from 2022's "Protect Your Land, Preserve Your Legacy" to "Conservation Easements Panel and Q&A." Julie suggested we decide on whether to repeat the program again in October pending attendance and interest in June.
 - c. Two Paddle the Powwow programs are scheduled for Saturday May 11, 10am-noon (Rain Date May 18), and Saturday, Aug. 10, 10am-noon (Rain Date Aug. 17). Thanks to Gordon Powers for organizing and promoting this EKCC program.
11. Safety fence at RR Parcel. Tabled.
12. Mural project at town's RR parcel. Tabled.
13. EKCC brick fundraising. No update; tabled.
14. Pollinator Pathways NH. The March 16 program, "Design a Pollinator Garden Hands-On Work Session," is full.
15. EK Edition topic(s). April 13 Bird Walk program (Brooke) and Paddle the Powwow program in May 11 and August 10 (Gordon) for publication April 1, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Great Bay Stewards is hosting a coordinated book reading and region-wide discussion about the book "Small Town, Big Oil," by David Moore, on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30pm in Portsmouth, featuring the author and activists at the center of the story in the 1970s. <https://greatbaystewards.org/great-bay-book-group/> Here in East Kingston, our library will discuss the book on Weds March 27 at 5pm.
2. Litter pickup. Friday, April 12 at 8am.
3. Earth Day (Monday April 22). We'll promote and post the Bird and Paddle on the Powwow programs.
4. Invasives removal at town forests. Tabled until April 8 meeting.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024.

ACTION ITEMS:

Time Adjourned: 6:28pm

1. All – Litter pickup on Friday, April 12. Meet at 8am at the town office.
2. Gordon – inform & secure approval of Paddle the Powwow programs from EK Board of Selectmen; promote the programs via flyers in town and articles in EK Edition and the Eagle Tribune (CTN section).
3. Brooke – promote the East Kingston Bird Walk via flyers in town and articles in EK Edition and the Eagle Tribune (CTN section).
4. Vicki – secure speakers and organize a conservation easement Panel & Q&A in June.
5. Dennis – for Powwow project, revise RFP for review and 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 – complete the “Scenic/cultural/historical” factor in the Conservation Priorities list using the EMMIT database of historical and archeological info.

Respectfully submitted;

Dennis G. Quintal

