

**Minutes of
St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday
December 7, 2023**

Attendance:

Members: Ken Oelberger, John Meyer, Dale Pierson, Dick Pelletier, Ryan LeShane, John Knuerr, Ingrid Mroz

Select Board: None

Planning Board: None

Public: None

Public Comments: Ken received a call from Anne Snow wondering what environmental impacts the closing of the cement plant would have on the surrounding community. Assumption that Thomaston may have decommissioning regulations. Ken will bring up at the KCCC working group.

Announcements and Communications:

- Ken reminded everyone that input for the next newsletter needs to be received by December 13.

Modification of Agenda: Added Old Wood Farm purchase by town to New Business

Minutes: Motion by Dale to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by John K. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Fort Point Project:

- Second funding request for town to receive over \$80k was submitted.
- Dale and Ken discussed some minor issues that were addressed with John Copeland including the height and drop-offs of some boardwalk access points and the location of the boardwalk at the trailhead
- Commission tasks include removing the old bridge, some bog bridging, kiosk upgrade and surfacing material at the kiosk. Also talked with Richard Cohn for help with wheel barrowing some materials onto the trail and the above listed tasks.

- Trail work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.
- An announcement will be made shortly after completion. A more formal event will be held in the spring.

Land Trust Coordination:

- GRLT: Annette will be retiring from GRLT end of the year. A potluck gathering will take place at Watt's Hall, January 6 at 5:00 PM. More info to come. Discussed Marcy's and Luke's new roles.
- MCHT: None
- KCCC: Next meeting will be December 14 at 7PM
- MEACC: None

Trails:

- Jones Brook bog bridging will not be worked on until spring.
- John M reviewed the pros and cons of setting up a trail camera on the Fort Point trail given the recent graffiti event. There is no good place near the new bridge to set up the camera. Also, costs outweigh the likelihood of capturing a photo that would identify culprits. The decision is not to proceed at this point.
- Ingrid suggested that it would be nice to develop a trail listing that includes the various trails in the region that are provided by towns and organizations such as GRLT. This will also be brought to KCCC.

Invasives/Events & Education

- John K attended a zoom presentation on Emerald Ash Borers (EAB). A video of the presentation is here:
<https://youtu.be/Wyh5ONuzUKs?si=t0dDwznGK5WEykD>
- The presentation addressed both the identification of EAB and pest control to save Ash trees. John K will do a write-up for inclusion in the next newsletter.
- Members were asked to think about potential topics/speakers for our next educational event.

New Business:

- The purchase of Old Farm Lot 11 is currently in negotiation phase. Issues revolve mainly around how to value the property. Ken is proceeding with initial grant application to Land for Maine Futures. The full proposal is due

in March. We will kick off a team effort after the holidays. Award decision would be in May with money available late summer.

Planning Board Update: None

Select Board Update: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Dale, seconded by Dick. Approved unanimously.