

St. George Conservation Commission Minutes for Thursday March7, 2024

Attendance: Ken Oelberger, John Meyer, Dale Pierson, John Knuerr, Dick Pelletier,; Associate Member: Ingrid Mroz, Tom Gorrill

Public Comment: None.

Announcements & Communications:

- The Conservation Commission of South Thomaston requested from us a letter of support in their efforts submit a proposal to LMF for land acquisition funding.
- **Modifications to Agenda:** None.

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

Old Business

Fort Point Project: (Ken)

- There is some storm damage on the trail where a thirty-foot section was badly washed out and some other minor water damage.
- The contractor will be contacted to repair as soon as possible.
- A notice of the damage will be posted on the website. It is still walkable but not for wheelchairs/walkers.
- Planning in process for remaining volunteer efforts in April and May
- Grand Opening planned for June 1st.
- Revised Interpretive Panel still required from the State (Ken action)
- Sign for site of Robinson cellar (Dale action)

Land Trust Coordination (Ken)

- GRLT, Marcy has left and her position will be filled by Amelia
- GRLT will also be holding a series of outreach meetings including one here currently planned for August 22nd.
- KCCC -Quarterly meeting March 14th
 - see below under Education

OWF LMF Grant Application

- Grant application is almost complete. Draft was sent out to four reviewers and their input was incorporated. Thank you to Dale, John M, and Ingrid for all their work. We are waiting for the letter of intent to sell which is needed in order to submit the application.
- John M will post or email for CC member's review.

Trails: (John M.)

- No blowdowns or problems as of today.
- We do need to place several sections of planking on the Town Forest and Les Hyde trails. We will coordinate with Luke for the Jones Brook trail reroute.
- We will place an order for material for 10 sections of bog bridging

Invasives (John K.)

- The March and April input for the newsletter has been completed.
- Ingrid shared a previous conversation between Tom Gorrill and the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership providing helpful information on additional ideas to support invasive awareness.

Events & Education: (John K.)

- KCCC- Met with Kathryn DerMarderosian, Rebecca Jacobs, and Beth Long to begin planning for education events around the Dark Sky movement.
- Dark Sky addresses a number of impacts:
 - The awe and wonder of the night sky which is becoming less and less visible. The importance of protecting places where the sky is truly dark and enabling people, especially kids, to experience it;
 - The impact of night illumination on human health, bird migrations and deaths, and on night pollinators to name a few concerns;
 - What individuals and towns can do to reduce night light pollution on their properties and to spread awareness of the problem;
 - Support efforts/legislation to protect the remaining areas where true darkness currently exists.
- We are planning for educational sessions during the summer here, Thomaston, Rockland, and Camden.
- We are also looking at some outdoor activities for families

Website Update: (John M)

- Will post as announcement John K's summary on the Forestry Departments mailout on invasives.

New Business

Select Board Update: (Steve) Not present.

Planning Board Update: (Terry) Not present.

Motion to adjourn by Dale. Seconded by John K. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by John Knuerr