

Conservation Commission

Minutes

April 21, 2009

Jo:

I have decided that we need to be more professional about our meetings and that I should send you all an Agenda before hand. Many of our town commissions and committees do this. With list in hand perhaps I won't forget things and you can send me additions or bring them to the meeting. I am sending them a little early because I will be out of town all day Saturday and Sunday.

AGENDA FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING, APRIL 21, 2009.

1. Should we have a very brief re-cap of notes from last meeting by Ellen for our approval? This could be e-mailed ahead of time and approved by vote at the meeting. This is usually done, but we have always been more informal. What do you think?

One correction from Jean.

One correction from Ronnie.

2. Jo reports on our financial status.

\$200 for shirts

\$100 for booklets

\$121 for plants book (Jo)

\$260 for conference

\$906-\$710 = \$196 left until July 1, 2009

3. Gloria has a report on two articles of interest for our discussion:

a Harpswell article on open space, and a Vernal Pool survey in Brunswick.

Gloria: did I pass the two letters out?

One nice article.

One letter regarding vernal pool doing a survey. Write to landowner re potential vernal pool. Ask permission to train volunteers to look at it. Also an aerial view. Landowner's responsibility to determine if there is a vernal pool. Town requests landowner to sign access permission form. Are we interested in this?

Jo: very important a little later on.

4. Jo reports that Mary Ann Nahf, Harpswell Cons Commissioner contacted her re: sharing costs of fly over infra-red photography for vernal pools.

Marianne Nahf called me from Harpswell CC re sharing flyover IR photographer for vernal pools.

New shoreland state law before property sold must be evaluated for vernal pools.

Redfield and Wayne 17000 for both or 8500 per town. New estimate 19000

Apply for funding?

Need approval to apply for grant.

\$5000 fee for interpretation. Santac in Topsham does that.

Email today total \$13000.

We cannot get it on now. Unless selectemen willing to let us apply for grant, out of the question for next spring.

Jo will write letter to Selectmen letting them know the information. Need to do the flyover before leaves are out and need town meeting ok to pursue.

Discussion of bulletin board

Wonderful pictures from our vernal pool field trip.

5. Ronnie reports on her new books for the school. We need to send a thank you to Alison at the Superintendent's office.

Alison wonderfully cooperative. Some of our funds for the card stock. The booklets are at the school. 50 of each booklet. The idea is to have some at town meeting that people could purchase. Need to send a note to Alison maybe even some flowers. Ronnie met Superintendent who was really wonderful. *Jo will write a draft letter to Alison and leave it with Gloria at town hall for us all to sign.*

6. Ellen reports on progress of Vernal Pool project at school. What happens next. Article concerning this in Maine Townsman.

Next field trip to vernal pool by Hillside Cemetery in PHR.

Next Wednesday second field trip leaving 1:00.

Will bring the T-shirts.

Maybe an aquarium.

We will do the biological survey like last year.

Bring field guides. Ronnie will bring nets.

Maine Townsman article on committee revival. Interviewed Bob Shafto director of MEACC. Says a lot about what everyone is doing. Original concept was go out and report. Ask if they want to fill out vp form. We can follow up.

7. Report by Jo and Jean on the Kennebec Estuary Conservation Commissions Meeting in Bath, March 24.

Phippsburg, Woolwich, Georgetown, . One person mapped out watershed to Nequasset then conservation committee grew out of that.

8. Report by Bob and Jean on the Georgetown and Saco ordinances that those towns have created concerning alternative energy installations. We are supposed to get together with Lee and Marie concerning any recommendations we have concerning Phippsburg's land use ordinances that deal with wind and solar power.

Any work on ordinances? Bob gave Jean some examples. He has asked for the others. Jean also got an article. Cool Communities: resource list of places to go to get people started on it. Maine chapter is now set up. Training Community College kids on improving housing, "shovel-ready" money. Jean will talk with Jen Blodgett this week. Wants to get Phippsburg to be a Cool Community. House energy efficiency improvements described in local newspaper.

Jo: this needs to go before land use committee. When do they want information from us? We can give them this information.

Jean: ordinance so town can decide. How to get power to grid for a large one, probably not possible in Phippsburg. More practical.

Jean will contact Lee Rainey and/or Anna Varian when they'd like to hear from us.

Jo: Tidal power might also need ordinances.

9. Jo's Invasive Species booklets. Also, we are going to have beetles from Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge installed in the loosestrife growing across from Center Pond in June. We have permission from Proctor Wells who owns that land.

Booklets are done. \$11.23 each. Will bring to town meeting. Two copies at library and some here at town hall. Lots of hours on getting it ready. Gloria suggested making posters for town meeting.

Jo will go to Staples and have them make us some posters.

We will get anti-loosestrife beetles in June. They take plant and infest with beetles. Proctor Wells said ok.

10. Status of Bates student who was going to help with trails.

Not going to get the Bates student. Jean's offer. Student did not want to work alone in the woods. Laura in the

future will try to get a team.

11. Ellen's plans for mapping the town land before leaves come out.

About three weeks we'll go do the GPS.

12. Bird walk with Ron Joseph May 16th, 7:30 a.m. at Shortridge Ctr.

He is great. We enjoyed him last time.

13. Upcoming Convention in Brunswick. MEACC to which we belong is meeting during the lunch hour.

We should get our food and join the group. Good to meet people from other CCs around the state. May 2

We are all going. Lots of exhibits besides the informational meetings. Food is in a cafeteria. Bob Shafto will have the MEACC meeting from 12:15-1:30. Time to pick up lunch and get to that meeting.

This coming Saturday the 22nd is cleanup day. Meet at 8:00 at town hall.

14. Any other items of concern from any member.

Gloria: Heard back from Sportsmen's Club? Someone interested in hearing more.

Our request for two more members is on the town meeting agenda.

People will apply after the meeting.

Adjourn