

Conservation Commission
May 19, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Conservation Commissioners:

Jean Perkins

Ellen Winchester

Ronnie Kamphausen

Visitors:

Richard Wenzel

Aileen Wenzel

Jean:

- Ellen sent out last month's minutes. Any comments? Minutes were accepted.
- Ed Seckas(sp) contacted Jean saying no more field trips as all money has been frozen. Could Ronnie bring in periwinkles, if red tide will permit it. Could you try calling him. He is in school by 7:00 am.
- Note that the school is using Ronnie's books.

Ronnie:

- Only carnivorous snails are affected by red tide. Periwinkles are not not. I can get them anytime. It might be interesting to compare yellow land snail to periwinkles, compare and contrast.
- I have many specimens relating to the books they are working with.
- *TODO: Ronnie will contact Ed S and possibly bring in periwinkles and yellow land snails.*

Ellen

- Discussed the possibility of working towards making a GPS-based Scavenger Hunt available to townspeople on the Town Land.
- *TODO: Ellen will finish tidying up the rest of the perimeter mapping of the Town Land and email snapshots of the maps.*
- *TODO: Ellen will send the finalized minutes for 2009 so far to Mike for posting on the website.*

Jean

- Harpswell wants us to join with them in aerial mapping and have our two towns work together to get grants. There is a Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night concerning this question. We should attend.
- We've given them the information that Harpswell sent plus some background info.

Ronnie

- Can you apply for a grant without committing the money for the mapping?

Jean

- I don't think so.
- If the aerial mapping was done we (the Conservation Commission) would be duty bound to go out and inspect all of the potential vernal pools and check to see if they have the numbers to qualify for a "significant" vernal pool. This would be done next spring. It would be taking on a LOT of extra work. How much do people want them located? That's a question for the town.

- We have said we are just providing the Selectmen with information for decision making. We do not necessarily (as a Commission) approve of the idea of spending money on aerial mapping of vernal pools in Phippsburg.
- *TODO: Jean and Ellen will attend the Selectmen's meeting.*
- We all received wonderful thank you letters from the 5th grade class with pictures.
- We all attended the Maine Land Trust conference.

Ronnie

- I found the conference to be very educational.
- I attended a workshop on how to run a "Bioblitz". It was very informative and interesting.

Jean

- I attended a workshop by the Maine Conservation Corps. They will come in and lay trails in towns for a fee.
- Another workshop was on wetlands.
- A workshop on how to insuring conservation lands: "Conservation defense insurance". Betsy Holbrooke might be a resource?

Ellen

- I also attended the Maine CC workshop.
- Attended Wetlands 101 and learned lots of detailed info on types of wetlands.
- At another workshop I learned about trail making ideas. The speaker gave a nice outline of steps to work towards preparation of a new trail. A book recommendation sounded promising.
- *TODO: Ellen will write up an outline of the trailmaking notes and see about the book.*

Jean

- The town meeting voted that we can expand by two members. Anyone interested should come in a fill out an application. They will have a list of people who filled out forms. Selectmen plus us will pick the new people. We can only choose two.

Ronnie:

- Jo and I were at the town meeting. We had our booklets and made a poster. People just went walzing by in a hurry to get to the meeting. I used my personal money to get these. The coloring books primarily prepared by Alison at the school. What should we do with them? They are being sold at cost. Booklets:
 - Sea Life in Phippsburg
 - Invasive Species
- I did take a plant and thanked Alison for the coloring books.

Jean:

- The booklets should be sold. I'll buy one of them. I think we should say these books are available.

Richard Wenzel:

- Would like to note that the Library trustees are encouraging people to display information at the Library. If you provide a sample and an informational form, we will provide a place for people to view a sample, a place to sign up, display a poster. You should provide a signup sheet for interested people to leave their name and phone number and asking how can you arrange delivery and payment? No money changing hands in the Library.

Jean

- Anything else?

Aileen Wenzel:

- Any textbooks or educational books you purchase new might cheaper on Amazon.com.
- Would like to express my appreciation for the amount of outreach you have done for children and adults.

Richard:

- Dinosaur rocks would be a great spot for a GPS cache, is there a cache there?

Jean:

- Anything else?

The meeting was adjourned.