

Conservation Commission Minutes

04/20/21

Members present: Jay Schechter (chair), Jerry Branch, Wendy White, Katie Featherston, Felicity Poole, Denise Frankoff, and Susan Peters, Select Board representative

Old Business:

- Mud Pond Dam - Jay
 - Still no response from Bill from State of NH. Susan will get contact information for Jay.
- Rotary Park – Jerry, Jay
 - Town meeting: Jay stated we need to be prepared to explain the grant.
 - Gate: The Select Board wants to keep the gate locked, unless there is an event. This may help prevent vandalism and keep the park safe. People can continue to walk into the park.
- Budget - all
 - discussed budget and finances, particularly the RSA which restricts spending dollars from land transfers and budget carryovers for any purpose other than open space.
 - Wendy suggested we consider designating money in the budget for maintaining Rotary Park. Susan suggested considering a forest maintenance fund.
 - Jay, Susan and Katie will meet with Carole Monroe to obtain more details about the budget.
- Conservation grants to be investigated – Carole, Denise and Katie – ongoing
 - Denise sent members information about grants available from the NH Parks and Recreation Department. These are matching grants.
 - Members discussed the challenges associated with writing grants – time commitment; some grants require matching funds, eligibility criteria

New Business:

- Publicity - Articles for Dublin Advocate – Denise and other members
 - Jay will write an article focusing on management of invasives. The article will include chemical and non-chemical methods. The article will also tell the community about the town's yearly invasive spraying program and inform residents to contact Jay or Katie if they want to sign up or would like additional information. Katie offered to talk with people if they have questions or want more information.
- Conservation planning/Open Space Plan - Katie, Wendy, Felicity
 - Katie examined the maps of the conservation areas. She has a spreadsheet of all conservation lands in Dublin from this link, which she distributed to Con Com members.
https://granitview.unh.edu/html5viewer/index.html?viewer=granit_view

Wendy continues to investigate the names of current owners of parcels listed in the open space materials.

- Conservation Easements
 - Susan, Jerry and Jay met with Steve Walker from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program (LCIP) concerning the properties around Mud Pond. We marked some of the boundaries. Steve will return to mark additional boundaries.
- Invasive Spraying Program
 - Jay arranged dates with John Chicoine: August 26, rain date 27th.
 - As noted above, an article in the Dublin Advocate will tell residents how they can sign up for the spraying.
- Public Awareness – possible community events
 - conservation easements: community forum. Possible presenters are Ann & Peter Kenyon from Monadnock Conservancy, Betsey Harris, who offered to talk about her experiences and other Dublin residents who have easements on their property.
 - management of invasives: community forum to discuss management options, potentially with Doug Cygan, NH invasive species coordinator.
 - Location of events: Wendy will check to see whether the library is available for in-person events. Susan will check to see whether Town Hall is available for these events.
 - Friends of Library event 5/22/2021: Con Com will participate – set up a table; Jerry and Katie will attend.
- **Local Conservation Organizations - Felicity**
 - Dublin Lake Presentation Committee: Felicity reviewed the proposed ordinance which would restrict cars from parking on the lake side of East Lake and West Lake Road. This will help reduce impact to the shoreline and keep the roads safe for all users. The Select Board will discuss these ideas with the Police Department and then make a decision about parking and enforcement. Felicity asked whether the Con Com supports these ideas; all members present voiced their support.
 - Beech Hill–Dublin Lake Watershed Association: Felicity reported that the group is considering some conservation projects. Felicity will keep the group informed.
- Meeting Dates: May 19, Jun 16, Jul 21, Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15
 - discussed the possibility of meeting indoors or outdoors

Meeting ended at 6:17.