

Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting Report

In-person Meeting, Kennebunkport Police Station, Route 9, Kennebunkport

October 17, 2022

Number of members of the public attending: 0

Commission Members attending: Carol Morris, Steve Hanna, Jennifer Comeau, Robin Phillips, Karen Hall

Guests: Jennifer Armstrong, Planeteers of Southern Maine

The meeting began at 6 pm.

1. The commission voted unanimously to accept minutes from September 12 Meeting.

2. Education and Outreach

- a. Jennifer Armstrong, Planeteers representative, provided a brief overview of what the Planeteers do: Their Mission is to organize, educate, and act on a local level in support of our planet. They are a grassroots effort dedicated to creating a sustainable future for the planet and more specifically for southern Maine and do many things that fit within KCC Mission, for example Pollinator Pathways program, upcoming forums in partnership with School Around Us. A discussion and general agreement on how to best work together with the Planeteers, the Kennebunk Conservation Commission, the two towns' Land Trusts (and possibly Arundel), and perhaps other like organizations, was lively and took up most of the meeting.
- b. Discussion on the desirability of coordinating upcoming forum activity among KCC, Planeteers, Kport Land Trust, in order to not compete and to generate awareness and participation. Noted that KCT and the Climate Initiative would be good partners for outreach as well. ACTION ITEM: Carol will follow up with Jen Armstrong to get more details on what they are doing, and bring this info to November joint planning session (Note: Grace Kane, member of Kbunk CC, is also a Planeteer.)
- c. Suggestions on others to involve for general interest and publicity include:
 - Kport farms: Frinklepod, Black Rock, Five Acres
 - Nina Perlmutter and rest of Planning Board
 - Trisha Concannon (lives in Dock Square, would write letters etc.)
 - Mary Gikness (she attended Outreach Brainstorm Group)
 - The Climate Initiative/ ACTION ITEM: Carol to contact Pam Morgan regarding this link.
 - High School Environmental Club

- Allison Krauss (Kport town nurse/heads up water testing and more)/ACTION ITEM: Jen to send her Physicians for Social Responsibility handout as an awareness builder
 - d. It was suggested that creating a No Pesticide Pledge of some sort with stickers or signage for those who participate would be a good way to generate awareness and action. The earlier Lawns for Lobsters was similar and popular. ACTION ITEM: Can someone volunteer to suggest the wording of a pledge and what it would include as a first step for this? This could be something existing that is available online. We would include cost of materials into the 2023 budget.
 - e. Discussion of the desirability and potential cost of testing water for pesticides included looking into cost and ease of testing, contacting Casco Bay to find out what they do and what it costs, checking with SMPDC on grant access. Action Items regarding this are in budget section below.
 - f. Other Updates: Web page up and available for comments/additions/improvements, outreach volunteers meeting went well, strong support for winter forums (Tom Atwoo, PPH garden columnist has agreed to speak in February/Fee \$100, Carol to host Healthy Rivers Oqunquit call (rescheduled) this Thursday Oct. 20 at 10 am, KCC to host Election Day table, Carol will send separate email with sign up sheet./who can help.
3. **Budget:** Carol reported on money spent to date:
- Membership Maine Conservation Commission Association: \$125; Signage for Invasives project: XX; 100 copies of 2-pager handout for events: \$65.83. Discussion on needs between now and year-end centered on printing more handouts, pre-paying speaker fees. ACTION ITEMS: Commission members to provide feedback on updates versus a brochure; Karen to provide better invasives photo, Carol to look into purchasing Native Ground Cover booklet from Wild Seed Project.
 - Budgeting forward: Discussion occurred on the possibility of testing water for pesticides (there was also discussion about grant support for this), supporting Arbor Day in schools (purchasing trees), additional speaker fees, general publicity costs (Boosts for Facebook, printing). Final decisions/recommendations for a budget will need to be final by November meeting. ACTION ITEMS: Steve to look into cost, practicality, and effectiveness of testing equipment, Carol to contact SMPDC to explore potential grant \$\$ there, Carol to contact Casco Bay to better understand their testing protocol.

Additional Next Steps

- ACTION ITEM: Commission to meet with Kbunk Commission on November 7 in Kbunk for joint planning session on Pesticides.
4. **Status and Next Steps:** Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance: Due to work and travel schedule, Steve was unable to bring anything on the ordinance to this meeting, but it remains a

priority and will stay on the agenda with a goal of allowing the commission to review a draft section at each upcoming meeting.

5. **Updates on Any Other Issues and Projects:** Steve and Robin discussed the possibility of adding another invasives demonstration project to the roster. No decision was reached.
6. **Other News or Business:** Carol asked for discussion on proposed new commission member Susan Kaagan. All members are in favor of asking her to complete the application process to become a member.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.