

Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting Report

Kennebunkport Fire Station, Kennebunkport

April 10, 2023
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Commission Members attending: Carol Morris, Robin Phillips, Karen Hall, Susan Kaagan, Jen Comeau

Members of the public attending: 3

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

1. The Commission members voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the March 13 meeting. As a discussion point, Jen suggested that KCC should document - outside of the note in the meeting minutes - the amount of dollars that were donated at the Atwood event. Carol will check with the Town on protocol for tracking and accounting for these dollars plus others accrued as part of Pollinator Pathway signs effort.
2. Carol asked the attending members of the public if they wanted to make any comments now instead of waiting until the end of the meeting. They declined.
3. **Comprehensive Plan Strategies/Reporting:** Carol said that the Town had provided the Commission with a copy of the KCC strategies included in the Comp Plan, with reporting on progress due early in 2024. The number of strategies is extensive. She reminded the Commission that the strategies were derived from feedback we provided to the Growth Management Committee during the Comp Plan process. Robin noted that the State of Maine did not find the Comp Plan consistent, so changes will have to be made in the plan and possibly in the reporting requirement. Carol said that unless there were inconsistencies in KCC-related strategies it would likely make no difference, but she will follow up with the Planning Department and get more information for the Commission. The documents from the state in regards to the Comp Plan filing are here – none of the comments are relevant to KCC strategies.
https://www.kennebunkportme.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3306/f/uploads/2023-03-27_kennebunkport_incomplete.pdf

4. Education and Outreach Updates

- a. *Goose Rocks Beach Invasives Project:* Discussion took place as to whether to plant dune grass in spring or fall, and whether to plant in other parts of Goose Rocks Beach. It is unclear whether we can purchase dune grass plugs in fall. Robin will confirm. Robin indicated that 200 plugs would be sufficient for a first planting this spring in the pathway location and only a small group would be needed; no volunteers. It was determined that Mondays and Fridays are good days for KCC members to plant, and the first week in May was tentatively scheduled, contingent on plug availability. Carol will follow up again with the

GRBAC/Town on permitting needs and potential planting in other areas of the beach.

- b. *Black Rock Farm May Container Gardening Event*: Carol has created a poster and met with Helene; Helene is considering ways to augment the event. May 20 is the date, likely in the morning for 2-3 hours. The event is free, people can buy or bring pots, plants will be available for purchase. It was suggested that the Farm offer a range of package costs for plants (small, medium, large) to make it easier for people to understand. Carol to follow up, include others as desired, and provide more details soon. Publicity should start in the next week or ten days.
 - c. *Pollinator Pathway*: Susan updated Commission members that a process exists for formal acceptance on the Pollinator Pathway, and includes photos of local pollinator gardens, and other information. The Town will need to be made aware of the process; Carol will send an email to that effect this week to Laurie, Werner, and Chris.
 - d. *August Cape Porpoise Event (Also Pollinator Pathway)*: We are still waiting for a date for this. Carol will check with Mary Gikness.
5. *Pesticide Testing Update – Locations/Timing/Volunteers*: Robin said testing will begin in June; locations have not yet been determined, she had no more updates. The budgeted amount is \$5,200, covering three sets of four water samples, i.e., three locations, four water samplings in each location. General locations are 1) Goose Rocks Beach, 2) Cape Porpoise, 3) Kennebunk River. The budget and testing document submitted to the Town has been re-sent to KCC members for their records.
6. *General Pesticide Questions*: Robin provided two peer-reviewed studies in regards to glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup), which she will email in PDF format to KCC members for review. Much discussion ensued as to the best way to address the current limited use of Round-up to control poison ivy on the Cape Porpoise Islands owned by KCT. Carol, who is a volunteer island steward, noted that the use was seen as a trade-off in order to continue to encourage public use of the islands, which she believes ultimately supports conservation efforts. The first step will be to talk with Jon Dykstra next week about using alternate methods to keep the invasive under sufficient control so camping is still feasible, especially on Cape Island. She will also contact Pam Morgan, Trust board member and UNE professor, who was part of an effort to eradicate poison ivy on Trust properties using goats. Carol discussed this possibility for the islands with Pam last year and at that time was told it was not feasible. KCC members would like to revisit this.
7. *Updates on Any Other Ongoing Issues and Projects*: None
8. *New Business*: Robin indicated she would like to be chair of the KCC. Jen asked if she was still planning to run for BOS. Robin said that was not in her plans for this year. There was a discussion about the amount of work being chairman entails and if this was feasible given Robin's current KCC commitments. Carol suggested the changeover be made in June, and she will put together a list of tasks she has been handling so everyone understands the commitment. Jen noted that some delegation might have to occur but she would support the proposal and made a motion to accept. Carol seconded and the vote in favor was unanimous.

9. *Public Comment:* Two members of the public reiterated their view that pesticides when used according to label instructions are harmless. There was discussion about whether safety testing of pesticides is compromised because it is often done by the companies that are marketing the product. These two members of the product said they put their faith in the EPA and DEP. A third member of the public attended the meeting to understand better what the commission does and asked what skill sets new members should have. Susan and Carol gave brief thoughts on what would be valuable to see in a new commission member.
10. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.*