

Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting

October 13, 2021

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm via Zoom Meeting

Members present: Jennifer Comeau, Karen Hall, Steven Hanna, Carol Laboissonniere, Carol Morris, Robin Phillips.

4 Guests from the Community.

The meeting was opened by Carol Morris at 6:35 pm

1. Public Comment:

- Community members want to be ensured their emails are getting through and being processed. With the new email (conservation@kennebunkportme.org), a process is now in place for receiving and responding to emails from the community.
 - Jen C. will work with the town's IT person to ensure every email is automatically forwarded to every commissioner.
 - Carol M. will take charge in answering emails, calling upon us as needed.

2. Review feedback from Election Day Table

- We received 36 signatures of persons wanting to receive communications from our Conservation Commission.

3. Review past month's work/input

- Carol L. reported a new development on Goose Rocks Road east of the intersection of Old Cluff Road that should be considered from the perspective of conservation.
- Carol M. reported meeting Eli Rubin, Kennebunkport's new Community Planner. Our town's Climate Plan is being enacted with Eli's leadership.

4. Discuss 2022 priorities/budget for December Select Board presentation

- Carol M. reviewed the list of priorities derived from former KCC meetings. The committee agreed on:

COMMITTEE PRIORITIES 2021-2022

- **Goal: 1** Create a pesticide ordinance for the June election that will have a strong chance of passing and can be reasonably enforced. This outcome will contribute significantly to cleaner water and a less compromised habitat for the community.
- **Goal 2:** As a demonstration project, create volunteer effort around clearing selected visible Town-owned land of invasive plants. The outcome of this activity will be a visual improvement to town lands, and the opportunity to train interested citizens in how to recognize and remove invasive plants on their own properties.

- **Goal 3:** Assess town-owned lands and make a recommendation on which lands are most critical to conserve in term of carbon sequestration, habitat, soil value. The outcome of this work will provide town officials and the public with better information about the location, value, and potential use of town lands.
- **Goal 4:** Support Planning department in climate change activities. Activities are still in the formative stage; over time, KCC's support will help to create better understood and more effective climate action in Kennebunkport.
- **Goal 5:** Build recognition for KCC as a strong and active conservation organization and increase awareness of personal actions citizens can take toward making our environment cleaner and more resilient. This task includes social media and face-to-face interaction between the public and KCC members. The outcome is a more educated public on the importance of conservation, sustainable landscaping, and climate change action, and through this, a better protected natural environment.
- Among the comments:
 - Goal 1: Pesticide ordinance. We may consider waivers on certain situations (e.g. invasives). We'll want to show rationale for our recommendations.
 - Goal 2: Demonstration Project could include Dock Square or somewhere very visible to the town.
 - Goal 3: Town-owned land assessment. We can take the lead from conservation and land trusts, and there are maps we can utilize.
 - Goal 4: Climate change activities may include a "to do" list for the town. Our committee may want to provide specific recommendations for the town going forward to help meet the goals.
 - Goal 5: Public outreach. There was general enthusiasm to create a set of guidelines around what and how to communicate with the public, so we extend our outreach. (e.g. Farmers' Market, School-All-Around Us, etc.)

5. Other business –

- The commission decided to change meeting times to 5:30PM – 7:00PM during the winter months.
- Carol M. will work on a budget letter for 2022 to include costs for printing materials and dues for State Conservation Organization.
- Carol M. will prepare for committee review a brief presentation to the BOS on Thursday December 9th. All members are encouraged to be present.

Approval of October minutes: The minutes from the October meeting were approved by all.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.