

**Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**April 11, 2022**  
**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Attending: Carol Morris, Robin Phillips, Steve Hanna, Jen Comeau, Karen Hall*

*Meeting began at 6:01 pm*

1. Vote to accept minutes from March 14 Meeting
  - Minutes from were accepted unanimously by the commission.
2. Updates from past month other than Major Initiatives
  - The draft Comprehensive Plan strategies submitted to the Commission for comments were submitted to Eli Rubin for consideration by the Growth Planning Committee. These comments were developed by the Commission at a special March 28 KCC meeting. There are ten more strategies to be considered at an upcoming date. A copy of the comments are included with these minutes.
3. Reports/Planning for Major Initiatives
  - Pesticide/Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance
    - Survey Update/Discussion: Carol noted that the town had just today sent out the alert that the survey deadline had been extended to weeks. Total surveys to date are 424, of which 90% are electronic. 82% have indicated that they have some or lots of concerns about the effects of pesticides. Fact sheets/emails are the preferred form of education.
    - Education ideas/discussion: Discussion included Steve's suggestion of the KCC creating a logical library of educational materials. There is a lot of interest in education. It was noted that a landing page is required as expecting the town to post on our page regularly is not reasonable. This page would contain info about the KCC, mission, activities, and links to education articles. Commission members are asked to send links of good sites or articles to Steve to vet, with a goal of 5 links per member. Carol to check with town to ensure we can link the KCC page to a landing page and also look into how to get one built.

There was also discussion about the increasing amount of organic products available at area stores, Green Mountain Transplants in

particular carries a wide range. A discussion also took place about contacting other garden centers and hardware to understand their POV and perhaps get them to carry more organics, with no specific action plan.

- Forum Update/Discussion – It was noted that all members had not had success getting speakers to agree to speak, the Commission discussed and agreed to put this off until fall, agree, which means planning would begin again mid-summer at latest. Also agreed to ask some people to speak with us as a committee this summer to advise us – Falmouth and Kittery would be informative in terms of their activity on this topic. This will be taken up at the next meeting.
  - Demonstration Project: Invasives – There is a need for a permit to clear in shoreland beach area, the Commission discussed moving to the North Street location instead, but concerns that too dangerous in summer traffic. It was proposed and agreed to work on the GRB shrubbery that is not nestable as there is a desire by committee to chip away at this spot. Steve to follow up with Werner on this status, as well as inquire how BAC works on invasives in the same area annually.
2. Kennebunk River Restoration Committee –Carol reported that the communications committee is meeting, and has gotten media coverage on the grant, but to date there is no funding for materials (UPDATE: \$1,000 has been procured from the grant funds). The first meeting with Arundel is this week, making it a three-town effort.
  3. Public Comment – Public comments (four speakers) focused on concern that survey does not provide scientific evidence that these pesticides are toxic. Continuing concern that a ordinance exists but is not public, to which Carol explained that we do not have a draft and will not start working on the mean of an ordinance until the survey data is complete. Another member of the public informed the Commission that there may be a Fox Field organic field day in the fall, which will include information on IPM and so would fit into the KCC's mission on education.

There was no other business; the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.