

## Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting Report

### In-Person and Zoom Meeting, Kennebunkport Fire Station, Kennebunkport

December 12, 2022

*Number of members of the public attending: 1*

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

*Meeting began at 6:03 pm*

1. The commission voted unanimously to accept minutes from November 14 Meeting.
2. Education and Outreach
  - a. **Recap of Joint KportCC/KbunkCC Planning Meeting:** KCC members who attended the joint Kport CC and Kbunk CC meeting report being very interested in working with them – and vice versa -- to share information, materials, and outreach. There will be a brief zoom call this week to share information on upcoming events so that the two commissions – and the Southern Maine Planeteers – can jointly promote events and education. An item of interest was the Kbunk CC's recent passing of a wetland mitigation ordinance, a process that took three years even without opposition. This ordinance fills the gap between state wetland rules and what is perceived as necessary for sustainable wetlands. KCC members expressed interest in this ordinance as a next step once work on the pesticide ordinance is further along.
  - b. **Recap Action Items from November Meeting.** Carol went over action items from the November meeting, almost all of which had been accomplished by members. Kudos!
  - c. **Goose Rocks Beach Invasives Project:** Maine Community Foundation Broad Reach Fund Grant Application (Dune Restoration): Carol described the circumstances that led to the KCC on a fast track jointly applying for this grant with the town and partnering with the KCT for outreach and acquisition of an intern for public education support. We will hear at the end of the month if the

grant is successful, and if so, we will have a solid foundation for dune grass planting materials for the GRB path (and other parts of GRB) and a public education program on identifying and dealing with invasive plants.

- d. **Other invasives action:** Steve described his work on identifying a potential additional area for invasives eradication at the Fire House. There was discussion as to whether the infestation was too big to handle, but the commission was interested. Steve will continue to explore this possibility.

- 3. Budget Overview: Carol presented budget figures for this year, and a proposed budget for next year, which needs to be to the Town by January 3.

**2022 Budget: \$1,350**

• Membership Maine Assn. of Conservation Commissions	125.00
• Signs for Invasives Demonstration Project/Signarama.	87.19
• Pesticide Handouts/Wills Copy (200)	124.79
• Pesticide Handouts/Wills Copy (100)	65.83
• <u>Pre-Payment: Tom Atwood Forum</u>	<u>100.00</u>
• Cost: 1000 Pesticide brochures	<u>\$740 (+ tax) 744.44</u>
 TOTAL	 \$1,247.21

**Projected 2023 Budget**

• Assn membership	\$125
• Pesticide Testing outside GRB (potentially through BAC for GRB locations)	
○ 2 samples @\$500 per sample:	\$1,000
• Speaker Fees/Materials for Workshops	\$500
• Printed Materials for Pledge:	
○ No pesticide signs – 500 @ \$8 each (Look into partial sale here to reduce cost)	\$4,000
○ Handouts (8-1/2 X 11) 1000 @ \$.07	<u>700</u>
 TOTAL	 \$6,325

- Budget items discussed by the commission included:

- Association membership: We have not used the current membership, but there was some feeling that the association should be supported. This would be an optional expenditure, however.
- Pesticide Testing: The commission felt strongly the need for more testing to determine whether pesticides were contaminating our waters. The recommendation is to ask for funding for testing three times at three locations (GRB, Cape Porpoise, Kennebunk River – ACTION: Steve to research specific locations close to storm drainage). Some of the funding for GRB could come from the GRBAC, and KCC is scheduled to meet with their natural resources committee in January to discuss. This will be reflected in budget as an option.
- Lawns for Lobsters-type campaign: Signage for this, which is agreed to be an important component, is expensive – minimum of \$8 apiece. The commission is open to asking for partial donations so as to be able to offer an attractive, desirable sign. Other costs to be included are handouts or brochures. Action Items: Carol to refine costs and to check with Paul Hogan regarding his Lawns for Lobs sign. Research on the LFL sign costs also would be helpful. Susan to send potential pledge wording out to commission members for discussion in January.
- Carol to send revised budget to commission members for one final look before January 3 deadline, and also to communicate process for approval/negotiation.

#### 4. Updates on other ongoing issues and projects

- a. In response to the Commission's discussion on Lawns for Lobsters public outreach, Julie McLeod, Arundel, was asked to speak about her efforts to create a calendar as a fundraiser for the KCT, Arundel and Kennebunk Land Trusts. Committee members agreed that this is an endeavor the Commission will support in terms of trading information and promotional opportunities.

## 5. Status and Next Steps: Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance

- a. Carol recapped the process for creating and getting an ordinance passed: Involve the town, involve Werner on language, involve the BOS because the BOS must agree to put it on the ballot, and then townspeople can vote to support the ordinance or not.
- b. Steve Hanna talked about the research he has done with Curt Bohlen and Mary Tomlinson (both on the state Board of Pesticides) – both of whom provided important input on the commission’s research. Steve wrote an impressive background paper, “Rationale for a Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance for Outside Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulations”, for commission members and potentially, town officials.
- c. Commission members discussed generally what they would want to see in an ordinance. Perspectives on the depth, breadth, and restrictions of a pesticide ordinance varied. Opinions ranged from a strong ordinance, registration / reporting for commercial applicators – to gauge where pesticides are most prevalent in our town, to a larger emphasis on education and alternate approaches with a less stringent ordinance. Other points to note include:
  - Growth in housing density, especially along the waterfront, is a concern for future pesticide increases
  - Working with the Planning Board will be important part of an ordinance, as they have restricted pesticide use on new developments in the past
  - Compromise and pragmatic approaches are important to keep in mind
  - There will likely be differences from our personal opinions and what the commission is responsible for recommending on behalf of our town, since the commission *does* have a mission and is acting on the results of the two surveys conducted in 2022 and 2018. A final draft may come down to a simple majority vote as is in keeping with town BOS/committee protocols.

d. Next Steps and ACTION ITEMS:

1. Further research other communities with ordinances with a focus on understanding how they are managed: how they describe what is illegal, if and what they have for exceptions, how they handle enforcement.
2. Call communities with ordinances to better understand how the ordinances are working overall.
3. Consider outreach to area hardware stores to ask if they are willing to stop or advise against sales of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
4. Create list of other groups that would provide useful input and schedule outreach.
5. Contact Planning Board to drill down on potential for adding pesticide/synthetic fertilizer restrictions in all new ordinances.
6. Carol will create a list of items from tonight's discussion to be addressed at upcoming meetings.
7. Consider publicizing an "open KCC meeting" where we encourage people to call in, ie, our own public "hearing."
8. The commission will ask Werner Gilliam to attend the January meeting to provide guidance.
9. Stats to be provided: Places where spraying for ticks takes place every month does not show lower incidence of lyme disease.

6. New Business: None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

8. Adjourn

*Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm*