

Kennebunkport Conservation Commission Meeting Report

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

January 9, 2023

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

Meeting began at 6:02 pm

1. Carol distributed copies of the 2023 Budget that had been approved by commission members and submitted to the town, noting that the budget for the number of pesticide tests had been expanded to nine (three tests over time in three locations: Goose Rocks Beach, Cape Porpoise River, and the Kennebunk River) based on feedback at the December meeting. She also noted that the dollar amount for signage for the Pledge had been decreased, offset by donations from pledge signers. Carol told the commission that in late December she had received a proposal to fund the pesticide testing from the Resort Collection, which has a budget for community outreach. The offer came through the GRBAC. Carol said that this was not confirmed, but that she had submitted a written proposal that explained the process and science behind the testing. She noted - and there was concurrence - that were funding to be offered, it would be of concern to the commission if the Resort Collection's landscaping practices did not reflect the principles espoused by the commission. Carol noted there will be more information and discussion to come on this offer.
2. Education and Outreach
 - a. Carol distributed samples of the new Pesticide Brochure, which has been printed. The commission suggested the following locations for initial distribution: Town Office, Graves Library, Kennebunk Garden Club, Black Rock Farm, Snug Harbor Farm, Five Acre Farm, Lower Village Hardware, KCT, Frinklepod (?), as well as all events.
 - b. Tom Atwood Event Update: After discussion including Zoom access, the date was set for early March (confirmed as March 2) at Graves Library. Carol noted an

outreach meeting would take place Thursday in which such topics as publicity, availability of food, topics, other attendees would be brainstormed.

- c. Kennebunk CC/Planeteers Event January 28 – Jen and Susan indicated they were planning to attend the event; Carol said that as co-sponsors, the KCC would have a table and would be handing out the new brochures and other handout items. Jen has suggested Mary Reynolds’ book “We are the ARK”. Carol will order and fund through the KCC budget.
 - d. Goose Rocks Beach Invasives Project: Maine Community Foundation Broad Reach Fund Grant Application (Dune Restoration). There was no update available at the meeting. (NOTE: Subsequently the KCC was notified that the grant application for \$28,611 has been awarded to the Town.)
3. Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance – With the resignation of Steve Hanna, Robin will be taking the lead on this ordinance. She will be talking with Blue Hill regarding their ordinance; Werner Gilliam will be attending the February meeting. It was noted that Steve had done much good work on the ordinance as well as other projects, and the commission would miss him.
 4. Updates on Other Ongoing Issues and Projects – The commission discussed at length the draft pledge document Susan had distributed. Much of it was seen to be positive, there was an agreement that if it could be shorter, it would be good. Carol noted that the budget covered a simple 8-1/2” by 11” handout. The actual pledge would be a different piece of paper and Robin submitted the pledge used by the Pollinators Pathway. KCC members agreed it was excellent. The suggestion that the KCC simply adopt some or all of their materials and pledge was deemed a good one given all the work that has gone on. The signage is expensive (\$10 for small; \$20 for large) but tasteful and made of metal. Robin will contact Mary Ellen Lemay for details on how to go about this. It is possible that Susan’s backgrounder piece can also be adapted to give the campaign a local flavor.
 5. There was no new business.
 6. The commission voted unanimously to accept minutes from the December 12 meeting.

7. There was no public comment.

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.