

# ***Poland Conservation Commission***

Town of Poland  
1231 Maine St.  
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2019

**Members Present:** Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover(Secretary), James Walker(Treasurer), John Laskey, Mike Murphy, Fred Morton, Matt Garside(Town Manager), Steve Robinson(Selectboard liason)

**Visitors:** Members of the Bog Hooters ATV Club

**ATV Trail:** At request of the ATV Club there was a lengthy discussion of use of railroad bed in Waterhouse Park for ATVs as part of a planned route to Cindy's Dockside. ATV members stated that the misuse about which Conservation is concerned has been caused by riders who are not club members. The club stated that they re-decked the railroad bridge four years ago and they will repair damage to the path that has been caused by improper use. They will also make every effort to provide signage and encourage safe and appropriate riding. When asked, they said they would accept a speed limit in Waterhouse Park and would join in considering an arrangement to separate walking from motorized usage. They stated that there are 70,000 ATVs in Maine and 400 registered in Poland. They have 71 miles of trail from Poland to South Paris. Their goal is to build a trail from the south gate of Waterhouse Park to Cindy's Dockside. The route would pass behind the RSU 16 Building and cross Rt. 26 at the Lions Club. They state that denial of ATV travel in Waterhouse Park would end ATV use in Poland. Currently, traffic amounts to about 12/day on weekends and 1 or 2/day on week days.

Discussion included concerns about whether ATVs are compatible to the nature reserve usage that is being proposed as highest use for Waterhouse Park. There were concerns about safety in the park and on the subsequent route to Cindy's. Fred Morton expressed a strong opinion that the Commission ought not be purist about our lands, and must recognize that there are many citizens in Poland who want such things as facilities for ATVs.

**Minutes of** September meeting as presented by Barry Morgan were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Accepted as presented.

**Waterhouse Park.** There will be a bridge opening ceremony on October 25 at 2pm. Donors and dignitaries, Great Northern Docks (the bridge contractor) and press have been invited by Matt.

Overall costs for the bridge were as follows: \$8000 for engineering, \$21,500 for bridge, \$6500 for guard rails.

The Comprehensive Plan for Waterhouse Park was given final approval by the committee and will be presented to Selectboard at their next meeting.

**Maine Tree Foundation:** Fred Morton reviewed the work of the Maine Tree Foundation and their availability with resources, experiences for teachers and Project Learning Tree, an outdoor classroom program. A coordinator would be available to speak to our school. Fred would like us to promote this.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:30. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 13 at 7pm in Ricker Library Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Stover, Secretary