

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2019

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover(Secretary), James Walker(Treasurer), John Laskey, Mike Murphy, Steve Robinson(Selectboard liason), Alan Audet (Associate)

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of October meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: No change from previous report.

Waterhouse Park. There was discussion of Selectboard decision to allow atv usage on the railroad bed in Waterhouse Park for a two year trial. Don noted that the Selectboard asked for meetings of Conservation, ATV Club and Snowmobile club to establish rules and methods of monitoring. Don read a memo from Fred Morton (who could not attend) recommending 25mph speed, signage indicating multiuse with pedestrian right of way, and trail clubs to provide on-going maintenance. Steve felt these were reasonable requirements. Don objected to 25mph speed, recommending 5mph. Mike noted that school zones have a 15mph standard.

Don suggested that we proceed with establishing a study committee to discuss and determine the rules. He suggested that we ask Steve Robinson to facilitate that group. Steve graciously accepted and offered to work with Town Manager to organize the group. Barry, Mike and Don were appointed from Conservation. Alan Audet was appointed to represent Trails.

Don noted that there are other conditions in the park plan, such as the “no hunting” rule that need to be enacted. We also need to proceed with obtaining the recommended easements. Barry will look into including funds for conservation easements in the upcoming budget.

It was noted that railing needs to be installed on both sides of the new bridge over the dam.

Tree Planting Program. Mike Murphy has been working with the Town Manager on a tree planting plan for the center of town. Ten or eleven sites have been selected such as in front of library, Town Office and at the schools. Mike suggests Locust trees and recommends that they be professionally planted. Conservation Commission thanks Mike for his work and supports the project.

Bragdon Hill Conservation Area. The new bridges have been installed. People are very satisfied with the appearance and function. One remaining triangular piece will be installed soon.

Heart of Poland Area. Funding for the purchase of Lot 6 has been fully achieved. While some members were hoping the finalization could be accomplished at a special town meeting, it likely will occur at the April 2020 meeting. We will determine if it could be done by a ballot vote, rather than in the Town Meeting.

Invasive bittersweet is still a problem in HOP. Barry will seek funding for commercial removal or a combination commercial/volunteer effort.

Town Property West of Lower Range Pond. Fred presented maps of a 15 acre parcel along the west side of Lower Range Pond. It is a narrow piece almost entirely within Resource Protection Zone. Fred urges the preparation of a management plan. There is a rare stand of pitch pine that should be protected as well as run-off issues with regard to the lake. Fred, Mike and Alan will do further evaluation of the area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm in Ricker Library Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary