

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2019

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover(Secretary), John Laskey, Fred Morton, Mike Murphy, Steve Robinson(Selectboard liason)

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of November meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer was absent and no report presented. Barry did report that a disbursement of \$120 had been made for steps at Waterhouse Brook Bridge. Barry also reported that the Town Manager had made a major cut in our budget request. If that stands, we would not have sufficient funding to do the planned easements (Waterhouse Park and modifications at Heart of Poland). We need to check to determine if easements can be funded from TIF monies. Steve suggested that they could and advised doing a warrant for easements at next town meeting. Proceeds from sale of Sadie Jackson lot, whenever it occurs, could also go toward easements. Barry will request Budget Committee reinstate the Town Manager's cut from our request.

Waterhouse Park Multi-Use Trail: Steve reported that he has contacted ATV and Snowmobile groups concerning meeting to discuss as proposed at last meeting. A meeting will be scheeduled in January. Steve is hopeful that a satisfactory plan can be worked out to allow ATV usage of the railroadbed, leaving the rest of the park to more restricted usage. Further discussion of this high interest issue was suspended pending that committee's work.

Conservation Plan, Map 10/Lot 54: Fred presented a Conservation Plan for this town owned parcel. Alan Audet appended a report of wildlife and botanical features. This parcel lies between Lower Range Pond and Route 26. The conservation plan highlights important features that should be carefully preserved. The plan was approved by the Commission with the reservation that comments concerning motorized usage be withheld at present. No decision was made concerning presentation of the plan to the Selectboard.

Waterhouse Park. Work on the bridge is now fully completed. Barry expressed our pleasure with the excellent workmanship from, the builder, Great Northern Docks. There was discussion of other issues in the park such as, place a kiosk at the soccer fields, no hunting signs, parking and accesses, extensive area of bittersweet invasion.

Projects for 2020. There was a brief discussion of potential projects. Further discussion was deferred to the January meeting with the hope that members will give this thought between now and then.

Annual report. Because of other commitments, Don regretfully declined writing an article for the town document. Barry generously accepted the task and members brain stormed the highlights of our work during the past year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8 at 7pm in Ricker Library Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary