

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2020

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

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of October meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. The secretary thanks Chairman Morgan for preparing minutes in his absence.

Treasurer's report: Chairman Morgan stated that there is no change from last month. The balance remains at \$10,670.09. Report accepted.

Black Cat Mountain: John Young, Scott Segal and Matt Garside explored this property. Town owns 3.5 acres at the top and the cell phone tower site is in a trust. A cemetery site could not be located. There was discussion of including the trail as part of our system. The Snowmobile Club will be making minor improvements shortly. Access is close to the BHCA parking and kiosk. Committee agreed to review possibilities for this area in a year.

Trail Improvements: New walkways will be installed in the next week or two. The bog bridges will be installed at 3 locations in BHCA and one in HOP. Mike and the Trails Comm. have cleared and marked the installation locations. Mike will coordinate with the installers.

Mike has also mowed the RSU lot off Rt. 26. He has suggestions for spring planting of wild flowers—probably lupin.

Fred presented information on a new loop trail that he has marked out on east side of the brook in Waterhouse Park.

Alan announced that he is preparing a project list for HOP.

Photography: Alan reported on purchase and planned installation of new game cameras as well as purchase of high resolution equipment. There is a possibility that NEFF will provide a game camera.

Hunting: Barry, John and Alan will discuss Waterhouse Park hunting issues with the next meeting of Selectboard. After discussion, the committee agreed that because after accounting for state law requiring no hunting zones near schools and dwellings, the cemetery association exclusion of hunting on their property, and adjacent landowners prohibiting hunting, only a small area could be available for hunting. Consequently, we will recommend posting the entire Waterhouse Park as no hunting. It was reaffirmed that

BHCA and HOP will remain as areas where hunting is permitted. Steve said that he would present a motion at Selectboard opposing hunting in Waterhouse Park.

Conservation Easements: NEFF recently reviewed our easements, but a report has not yet been received.

Heart of Poland: There was discussion of including Hilt Hollow lots 5 and 6 in the conservation easement. Steve argued against including Lot 5 on the basis that it borders Rt. 26 and at some future date property owners on either side might want to purchase the lot, not to develop, but to provide necessary green space for development of their current property. With the exception of Don and Fred, the committee agreed not to attempt a change of status for Lot 5. We will do necessary surveys and proceed with plans to include Lot 6.

Sadie Jackson Lot: There was discussion of importance of getting Town Meeting approval for sale of Sadie Jackson lot. It is hoped that proceeds from such a sale could be placed in a reserve fund to provide local matching funds in future grant applications.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9 at 7pm in Ricker Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary