

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2021

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover(Secretary), Alan Audet, John Young, Steve Robinson (Selectboard liason), Matt Garside (Town Manager), Scott Segal (Director of Parks and Recreation)

Meeting called to order at 6:55pm by Chairman Morgan. Meeting was held via Zoom and telephone.

Minutes of January meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: Chairman Morgan stated that there is \$9883.74 in the operating funds balance.

Trails Comm.: Scott Segal reported on discussion with Trails Committee concerning incorporating Trails as a sub-committee of conservation. A suggested set of sub-committee guidelines was presented for discussion. The sub-committee will meet as required under direction of the Trail Coordinator who is currently Alan Audet. Trail Coordinator will report monthly to the Conservation Commission.

A regular trail work day will be scheduled for the 4th Saturday of each month. Additional trail work will be scheduled on an as needed basis by individuals or sub-groups of Trail Committee persons. The Trail Coordinator will endeavor to accommodate the different interests, skills and working preferences of the volunteers.

Scott presented a spreadsheet document to be known as the Master Trail Plan. The plan will present on-going documentation of all trail projects, and will facilitate coordination and direction for this critical stewardship task. The committee suggested adding a column designating a priority rating for each project. Commission members thanked Scott for developing the Trail Plan.

Fred Huntress and Mike Murphy have been working on a new trail with bog bridges over Waterhouse Brook. This would provide improved access for school related projects.

Conservation Easements: NEFF has not yet sent a report of their annual over-site visit last fall.

Davis Surveying has now included Hilt Hollow Lot #6 in the Heart of Poland Easement and recorded this at Registry of Deeds. The cost was \$1099. billed to the PCC operating funds.

Naturalist Projects: Alan Audet reported that he will be assembling a master list of his projects similar to the Master Trail Plan. He is also seeking to appoint one or more

Conservation Associates to work on projects such as monitoring particular plant species. These would be persons with specific knowledge or an interest in developing the requisite skills. Members suggested reaching out to the high school or scouting program in search of committed volunteers. Request for volunteers will be posted on Facebook and at trail kiosks.

Alan reported that he has 4 game cameras operating, three at HOP and one at BHCA. He expects to add more equipment, including a camera trap, in the near future.

Annual Report: Barry presented the Conservation Commission Annual report for 2020. The report was accepted with appreciation for Barry's work on its preparation.

Town Meeting: Barry urged that all members actively support Article 31 authorizing sale of Sadie Jackson property.

Duck Release: Scott has been approached concerning a fund raising project which involves a race of rubber ducks in a stream. While supporting the project, the commission felt the proposal to do this activity at Waterhouse Dam was not appropriate and will offer some alternate suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 7pm., probably via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary