

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover (Secretary), John Young, Steve Robinson (Selectboard liason), Ray Stillman (visitor)

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of April meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: Chairman Morgan reported no changes.

Heart of Poland: The amendment relating to Lot 6 has been added to our easement with NEF.

Trail Maps: Barry announced that the new printing of trail maps has been completed thanks to the Community and Economic Development Comm. Scott will distribute to kiosks and local businesses.

Trails: Alan reported that on April 24 the Trail Comm. along with the new Conservation Associates toured HOP to review future projects, such as improving habitat, many of which were recommended by Deb Perkins' Wildlife Management Plan.

On May 22 Trails will do maintenance at Bragdon Hill. The metal trail blazes are to be removed and replaced with painted blazes. In HOP, plastic trail signs will be replaced with metal signs.

Alan led an extensive discussion of developing conservation projects in all three areas. He now has eight volunteer conservation assistants with varied interests, experience and affiliations with other projects. The focus of projects will be on survey and inventory of various species, survey of vernal pools, and mapping seasonal brooks. The two vernal pools in HOP have sufficient findings to be registered as "significant".

Alan would like to do a bat survey on our properties in conjunction with a larger study. This will require a bat monitor device which records ultrasonic sound. Pending such data collection, decisions can be made on clearing of foliage and installation of bat boxes.

Another potential project would involve school children in work with flying squirrels.

"Environmental DNA" can be used to identify what animals have been in the area and water samples can identify the fish species in our streams.

Two game cameras which have been on loan from NEFF will need to be replaced by us in the near future.

The committee was strongly supportive of Alan's projects and would like to provide necessary financial support. A budget for conservation projects will be considered at a future meeting.

Municipal Complex: John Young reviewed progress of the committee that is developing a park area behind the library adjacent to HOP. The committee has held two meetings to brainstorm possible installations including walking path, gazebo, playground, benches and picnic tables. Most of this is at the level of "brain storming". In the immediate future, the cleared area will be leveled and seeded with grass.

Memorial for Michael Murphy: A white oak tree has been planted at the site near RSU 16 building. The Commission voted approval of \$242.50 to reimburse Fred for the tree purchase. Wording for a plaque was approved by unanimous vote. The exact nature and cost of a plaque remains to be determined. John will get proposals from Collette Monuments.

Fred presented a proposal to call this entire property the Michael Murphy Conservation Area. Steve suggested graveling a small parking area and putting up an appropriate sign.

Waterhouse Brook Park: Prior to beginning of tonight's meeting, the committee visited Waterhouse Brook Park to look at new trail that will cross the stream from cemetery land toward the sand pit. A suitable bog bridge will be required. It was agreed to get an estimate from Northern Docks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 9, 7pm at the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary

Addendum to May 12 Minutes: On 5-16-21 Chairman Morgan polled the Commission via email, requesting specific approval of an expenditure of \$179 to reimburse Alan Audet for purchase of a bat monitor device. One member also urged that we establish a budget for such items at our June meeting.