

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, February 20, 2019

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-chairperson), Jean Potuchek(Treasurer), Donald Stover(Secretary), Mike Murphy, John Laskey, James Walker (Selectperson)

Minutes of January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: A contribution of \$2000 was received from Poland Spring Bottling. This brings the bridge project reserve to \$16,200. \$2276 was expended from operating funds for engineering inspection of Waterhouse Dam.

Jean suggested that we maintain a “tickle” file to remind us to begin annual budget discussions at November meetings. There was a brief discussion of the appropriate approach to setting budget goals. Some members feel we should move slowly, but deliberately in an effort to achieve moderate annual budget increases. One member felt strongly that our stated mission is the identification and preservation of open space. The development of a large reserve fund is essential to that task. Therefore, it is our obligation to request and advocate strongly for significant annual additions to a reserve for land purchase and placement of easements.

Heart of Poland: Work continues on finalizing the bridge design to meet DEP concerns. The bridge will be lowered and foundation altered to minimize amount of concrete to be added on the granite dam. Matt is making arrangements to put out RFPs for the bridge. We are most likely going with a pre-fabricated structure.

Project Priorities: There was discussion of relative priority for Estys Bog Project vs Hilt Hollow Lot 6. Thus far there has been no response from inquiry sent to owner of the Estys Bog property. The town manager is proceeding with authorizing a realtor to enter negotiations with Laliberty for purchase of the Hilt Hollow Lot. It was agreed that we should place highest priority on the Hilt Hollow Lot.

Earth Day: Jean and Don reported on initial plans for an Earth Day program to be held in Ricker Community room on afternoon of Saturday, April 27. Plan is for a presentation by Jean on Invasive Species and a HOP Trail Walk led by Alan Audette. Additionally, conservation related businesses and organizations will be invited to have informational tables or displays. The plan was supported.

Open Space Planning: Committee approved Mike's request for time on March agenda to lead a discussion of Open Space Planning and mapping tools.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 13 at 7pm in Ricker Library Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary