

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2021

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover (Secretary), John Young, (Treasurer), Fred Morton, Ray Stillman, Steve Robinson(Selectboard liason), Scott Segal(Parks & Recreation).

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of September meeting were reviewed and approved. Fred Morton requested that future minutes clearly identify Fred H. vs Fred M.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Young reported a Reserve Fund balance of \$5297.73 and Operating Fund balance of \$108,901.28. This reflects completion of Sadie Jackson property sale. Approximately \$10,000 was spent from TIFF balance for work at dam in Waterhouse Park. Approximately \$30,000 TIFF monies are available for further projects before July 2022.

Mike Murphy Memorial: The stone has been engraved and is ready for installation. A dedication ceremony will be held October 31 at 2pm.

Waterhouse Brook Park: Granite steps and landscaping work has been done on north side of the dam. Members feel this was an excellent job. It was suggested that another piece of granite be added at the edge of the roadway to prevent erosion onto the new steps. It was also suggested that a discrete sign be installed, directing all boat launching to the south side of the dam. Scott will pursue these suggestions.

Plans for a new trail and stream crossing will be discussed at our November meeting.

Heart of Poland: Surveyor has met with Barry and made the necessary corrections, which are now being reviewed by NEFF attorney.

There was discussion of 8 acres for sale abutting Hilt Hollow. (Map 16, Lot 1c, listed for \$47,000). Fred H. feels this property does not have conservation value. Commission agreed.

RSU property: Bushhogging was completed. Discussion centered on seeing that the entire area is regularly mowed to keep it open and visible. Steve will discuss with the Town Manager.

Maine Association of Conservation Commissions: will hold their annual meeting on Saturday. Barry, Alan, Ray and Don will attend and report back to our November meeting.

Town Land Parcels: John and Fred H. gave a detailed review of all town owned land parcels along with location maps and their recommendations for future disposition. There was extensive discussion of these properties. John will proceed with creating an Excel worksheet as a permanent record and device for town land inventory control. We will then finalize or discussions and recommendations for the Selectboard.

Game Cameras: NEFF recently removed two cameras which were on temporary loan. This is a loss to the naturalist program and we shall get estimates on purchasing replacements. Once the estimates are in, Barry will poll the members for approval of the expenditure so the program can continue with the shortest possible disruption.

Annual Budget: Barry discussed need for revised system of accounting for our funds which he will discuss with Matt. Barry re-iterated specific budget items such as trail maintenance, invasives, scholarship for Poland teachers to the Project Learning Tree, etc. Members are also concerned about creating a clear distinction between annual operating expenses and long term capital reserve funds. Budget discussion will be continued at our November meeting.

Property donation: The Terri and Steve Young family has entered into negotiations to donate to the town a parcel of approximately 18 acres on the Jackson Rd. They have been in discussion primarily with Scott Segal of their wishes for the use of this property and will modify their deed to restrict the land to the uses agreed upon . The parcel consists of a large level field and woodland. In consultation with Scott they have developed a plan for parking, a soccer field, a pickle ball court and trails. A small log cabin on the property will be removed. It is expected that this very generous donation will be on the upcoming town meeting agenda for acceptance by the voters.

The commission authorized Don to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Young.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7pm in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary