

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2021

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover (Secretary), John Young, (Treasurer), Alan Audet(Naturalist & Trailmaster), Fred Morton, Ray Stillman, Steve Robinson(Selectboard liason)

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Young reported a Reserve Fund balance of \$5297.73 and Operating Fund balance of \$108,476.28. \$9,135 was expended from TIFF monies to Spruce Bay Co. for landscaping work at Waterhouse Park. \$30,349 of TIFF funds remain available until June 30.

Barry will explore possibility of using Tiff monies to purchase bog bridges that could be warehoused for future use on any of our trail systems.

Commission voted unanimous approval of expenditure of \$497.53 for game cameras and security boxes.

Murphy Memorial: John Young has cleared brush in the area and Fred has been maintaining the tree.

Heart of Poland: Survey is still pending final acceptance by New England Forestry Foundation.

Black Cat Mountain Trail: Fred Huntress and John Young will research legal issues which must be clarified before this could become a formal part of our trail system.

Waterhouse Brook Park: Added improvement at the top of the newly installed granite steps would involve extensive re-filing with DEP. Tabled for the present.

Added bog bridging has been tabled because the proposed route is too close to the current sand and gravel pit.

Invasive plants: Removal of invasive plants from conservation areas will become a repetitive cost requiring licensed professionals to do herbicide spraying.

Property donation: A meeting of Jackson Rd. neighbors was convened by Scott Segal. The Young family stated their wish to hear community reactions to their donation and the plans for a community park. About 30 persons attended and while all expressed appreciation to the Young's, everyone who spoke was opposed to the project. As a consequence, Mr. and Mrs. Young have withdrawn their offer to donate their property to

the town. Mr. and Mrs. Young were appreciative of our letter thanking them for considering the donation.

Conservation Commission Annual Budget: Barry presented a review of past funding and a draft document “2021-2022 Budget Request.” This document was well received by the Committee and Steve Robinson indicated that the document would be sufficient to justify Barry's request for an annual stipend of \$5000 for continued stewardship and sharing of our conservation areas and their benefits with the schools and general public. It was suggested that the total of all past citizen donations be included in the document.

There was continued discussion of the need to create a reserve fund for future land purchases, clearly separated from operating funds. Steve will explore this with the Town Manager.

Future Land Acquisitions: The committee authorized Fred H. to enter into discussion with owners of potential conservation land acquisitions.

Review of town owned properties: John Young presented a completed file identifying these parcels and noting our recommendations to sell four of them and to clarify questions about the deeds on two of them as follows:

0007-0014D	off Bailey Hill Rd.	recommend selling
0009-0010A	Old Black Cat Mt. Rd.	recommend selling
00156-0026-D001	Felker Rd.	Sell
0017-0041	Herrick Valley Rd	Public Works should sell
0011-0004-0001	Poland Corner Rd.	need to check deed
0011-0004A	Poland Corner Rd.	need to check deed

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7pm in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary