

Poland Conservation Commission

Town of Poland
1231 Maine St.
Poland, Maine 04274

Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2022

Members Present: Barry Morgan(co-chairperson), Fred Huntress(co-Chairperson), Donald Stover (Secretary), Alan Audet (Naturalist & Trail Master), Ray Stillman, Steve Robinson (Selectboard liason)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Morgan.

Minutes of January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report: Barry reported no change since last month.

Heart of Poland: At the February 1, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectpersons, Barry, John and Don joined in discussion of Article 32 which will be presented at town meeting. An agreed upon revision will be as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize an amendment to the "Heart of Poland" conservation easement to include Map 15, Lot 1, Sublot 6 and Map 15, Lot 1, Sublot 5 as described in Revision IV of the easement plan for Heart of Poland."

Value of Conservation Areas: Don reviewed studies by Maine economist,. Jessica Sargent. Her studies conducted in Maine towns affirm that conservation lands propel economic development, enable tourism, enhance property values, provide recreational opportunities, increase public health, provide natural goods and services, and support farming, fishing and forestry. Following discussion, Barry requested that Don prepare a public handout summarizing these facts. In a related discussion, Steve suggested the handout include a general description and location data concerning the town's three conservation areas.

Wildlife: Alan reported extensively on his work and observations. He has been following a group of otters migrating between Lower Range Pond and Waterhouse Brook. He and Cliff Anderson have been working on flying squirrel nesting box kits to be assembled by children in the after school program and then placed and followed in HOP. Alan's game pictures can be found on "Waterhouse Brook Films" on Utube and on Facebook—Poland Conservation Trails.

Earth Day: Possible Earth Day Program was set for Saturday, April 23. Alan offered to do a Naturalist program and to coordinate with Deborah Perkins who has previously offered to help with an invasives program. We also discussed possibilities for handouts and a clean-up walk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7pm in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Stover, Secretary