

**Poland Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Ricker Memorial Library
December 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

Draft

Commission Members Present: Barry Morgan, Fred Huntress, Alan Audet, Ray Stillman, Fred Morton, Don Stover (associate member), Paul Drowns (incoming member).

Guest Present: Steve Robinson, Scott Segal

Barry Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

In the absence of the Commission Secretary, Barry appointed Fred M as Acting Secretary for this meeting.

Approval of Commission meeting minutes from November 9, 2022

Approval of the meeting minutes were tabled as they were not available at the meeting. They will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Fred M also noted that the meeting minutes should not be posted to the Town of Poland website until reviewed and approved by the members of the Commission.

Approval of Commission Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was tabled as the Treasurer was not present and the report was not available to Commission members. The December Treasurer's report will be presented at the January meeting.

Meeting Discussion

Scott updated the Commission on the \$222,000 grant proposal with the State of Maine. The Town has been informed that the grant has been preliminarily approved and is now awaiting final approvals at the State level. Grant funds will be used for various improvements to the Town of Poland Municipal Park, which are still in a concept stage. Scott will report to the Commission, at a later date, more information in regards to specifics on the park improvements. Scott also updated the Commission that it is likely that the 2023 Poland Winterfest, with its various events, will be held at the Municipal Park.

Alan stated that he had the flying squirrel boxes ready for assembly. He and Scott will organize an event with the Poland school to have some students assist in putting them together.

Fred H discussed possible options for the excess timberland acreage that is currently owned by the Pine Grove Cemetery Corporation ("Pine Grove") and makes up the northern portion of the current Waterhouse Park trail. The property extends from the back portion of the Pine Grove Cemetery to the Waterhouse Brook to the east and the Poland school property to the south.

The Town currently has a lease with Pine Grove permitting the use for the Waterhouse Park trail. A thorough discussion was had among Commission members about the possible options of this property in regards to the Waterhouse Park Trail and the interest that the Commission has in pursuing discussions with Pine Grove.

Fred M made a motion that the Commission move forward with engaging Pine Grove in regards to various options for the property as was outlined by Fred H. The motion was unanimously approved with Fred H abstaining as he currently sits on both the Board of Pine Grove and the Commission.

Fred M and Barry will draft a letter to Pine Grove outlining the desire of the Commission to discuss various options with the Pine Grove Board for the property by the Town of Poland as well as the benefits to both Pine Grove and the Town. A sub-committee of Barry, Fred M and Alan was formed, and this subcommittee will lead the discussions with Pine Grove.

Fred H updated the Commission in regards to the recent line work that was completed by Sherman Small on the Whittier lot. He also updated the Commission on several other boundary lines of Town property that should be updated and/or blazed in the next year or two. A discussion by Commission members was had on this subject, and the members agreed to look to the Town for funding to have this work completed.

Barry solicited comments from Commission member as to items they would like to see the Commission deal with in 2023.

Other Business

Paul Drowns informed the Commission that he would like to map the existing location of invasive species within the Town of Poland. He will keep the Commission updated as he proceeds with this endeavor.

Barry adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Fred Morton, Acting Secretary