

South Berwick Conservation Commission

June 27, 2012 - Meeting Minutes

Present: John Klossner, Marilyn Ladner, Steve Bayse and Pat Robinson

Absent: Smilie Rogers

Next Meeting: July 25, 2012

Minutes of May 23, 2012: Minutes were submitted by John. Pat moved to accept the minutes. Marilyn seconded the motion. All approved.

Mail:

Steve and Pat received letters stating that the Town Council had voted at their June 26, 2012 meeting to re-appoint them to the Conservation Commission. The term of office for both Steve and Pat expires June 30, 2015.

On Going Business:

Budget: Pat reported that \$220.50 remains for the fiscal year.

Steve made a motion to pay our remaining 2012 annual membership dues as follows: Great Works Regional Land Trust: \$50.00; Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC): \$97.50. These membership dues were previously only paid 50% of the initial amounts due because of the adjustment to the Commission's budget by the Town. This is reflected in the Commission's October 2011 minutes. Marilyn seconded the motion. All approved.

Pat reported that the following FY 2013 budget was approved at Town Meeting:

Community programs:	\$300
Dues:	\$295
Town support of the Mt. A Conservation Coordinator position:	\$0

It was indicated that an upcoming Town timber harvest may generate monies that will be used toward support of the Mt. A Conservation Coordinator position

As reported at the May meeting, the Conservation Commission received \$2,125 from the Vaughn Fund (of the \$4,250 applied for/requested), towards the Town support of the Mt. A Conservation Coordinator position for 2012.

Town Planning Board: John reported no recent meeting has been held.

Town Forest: Commission continued discussions on developing a permission/permit process for the Boy Scouts to camp in the Town Forest. Commission reviewed and discussed the "Leave No Trace" guidelines. Steve to develop a basic permission form/permit that can be used to request approval and/or notify the appropriate Town officials. Steve will submit a draft to Commission for review.

Pat made a motion to purchase two cans of pink spray paint in the amount of \$10.78 for trail blaze marking in the Town Forest. Marilyn seconded. All approved. John will make the paint purchase.

Open Space Planning: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

Pat received permission from Roberta Orsini for the Open Space Committee to post a map of South Berwick, accompanied by a number of photos representing open space, in the Town Hall. This would provide awareness on current open space areas, as well as solicit input from citizens on areas of the Town that they feel should be considered in the development of the Open Space Plan. Paul Schumucher (Executive Director of Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission), will provide the map.

Pat made a motion to spend up to \$60.00 for 8"x10" prints to accompany the Open Space Planning map. Pat will coordinate the collection of photographs, selection, and printing. Steve seconded the motion. All approved.

Invasive Species: The Commission continued discussions on the desire to communicate and educate citizens on the invasive species of concern in the area. Members discussed ideas such as web links to State sites, planning and holding educational programs and the creation of information brochures and/or posters.

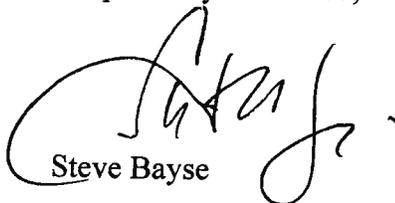
Petition about Climate Change: The Commission discussed the presentation by Tom Cashin and Gavin Maloney of Acton, ME, at last month's Conservation Commission meeting. John stated that he would take responsibility handling of the climate change petition Mr. Cahin and Mr. Maloney presented, and consider having it available at the Town Hall on Election Day.

New Business:

Community Forest – Fred Green: Pat had sent Members an email on June 21st from Tin Smith (Board Member, Great Works Regional Land Trust) concerning a 280 acre parcel on Witchtrot Road that the Green family is considering the sale of as a Community Forest. Tin had requested the Commission determine if this is something we would be interested in pursuing. The email indicates that this would require the Commission to be involved in finding funding for the purchase of the parcel, approaching the Town for acceptance of the project, and ultimately management of the land if successful.

The Commission had a number of questions concerning this project, and felt we needed more information from Tin about it and why this process is beneficial over others such as the Land Trust acquiring the property. Pat encouraged Members to email their questions to her so that she can follow-up with Tin.

Respectfully submitted,


Steve Bayse