



Meeting Minutes October 13, 2020

Present: Todd Hathaway, John Gabour, Liz Wilson, Scott Pim, Ben Bade, Sandy Goodspeed, Dan McCombs, Scott Pim

Absent: Joseph Trombley

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

John Gabour Resignation:

John Gabour is resigning because he is moving out of town. Scott and the other members expressed their sadness and thanked John for his service and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Clarke Farm:

Jeremy Lougee of SELT presented the final proposal for our purchase of a conservation easement for \$15,000 on the Epping portion of the project, about 25 acres. Newmarket is aiming to contribute \$75,000 for the acreage in their Town, about 150 acres. The Clarkes are also conserving a separate wetland parcel through a separate grant program. The final proposal goes to a public meeting on October 25, 2020. The easement/funding is through NRCS ALE, which is essentially federal funding for agricultural/farming conservation projects. The easement deed cannot be easily altered because of the federal review process, but the language is fairly typical SELT language that has been accepted for other Town conservation projects and will be reviewed by Town Counsel. The Town will get an executory interest as to the portion of the easement within Epping. This means that, if SELT for some reason does not exist or is not enforcing the easement restrictions, the Town could take on the rights and responsibilities. The ECC does not vote on the project until the next public meeting, but Scott expressed the Members' strong support for the project in light of the high conservation value of the land, the relatively inexpensive cost, and the great partner that SELT has been in our community.

Pollinator Pathways:

Barbara Willis provided an update on her work as liaison to Pollinator Pathways. She has been sharing information on social media and to Dan for our website. Barbara also raised the issue of doing more with Miriam Jackson Park to support pollinators and provide some education, and also the island in the Lamprey just off the park. Scott will investigate ownership issues to determine whether any permissions would be needed for use of the "island." The Members expressed support for these projects. Barbara also expressed interested in mapping and providing more information about Epping's hiking trails, which she has been using during the pandemic. Todd offered to help with gpx files and mapping.



**Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2020**

Warrant Articles:

Sandy presented proposed language for the Out of Boundary Land Purchase warrant article, but the Members felt that it needed to be revised to address the Clarke situation involving non-executory interests. Sandy will go back and work with Scott and Todd on revising the language. Sandy also presented language for the Dimond Hill Class A Trail, which the Members unanimously approved. The Members also agreed to seek input from abutters, about this warrant article.

Tech and Photo Contest Update:

Dan updated the website and social media with the photo contest winner. The Members discussed ideas for getting more interest in the contest, including changing the submission period to fall, offering monetary prize or gift cards, and coordinating with school programs. We will revisit in 2021.

School Projects:

Liz indicated that activities/partnerships with the school would not be ready until spring based on the school schedule/curriculums. The Members agreed to revisit the issue and interest in the Fox Run Alphabet Trail sign design in January. Scott indicated that he would follow-up on the issues related to the weir design for Fox Run.

Dimond Hill:

Ben, Dan, Scott, and John installed the signs at Diamond Hill. Thank you! Scott suggested the need for more signs at the property.

Signs:

The Members agreed to put off a sign for George Falls Woods until the parking area and trails are cleaned up. The Members also indicated that finishing the trail at Low Park should probably be more of a priority. Todd offered to get to it after going back for fall clean-up at Folsom. With respect to Mary Blair Park, the Members agreed to authorize \$1700 for the signs and trail markers for the historic trail. Todd will follow-up with the sign makers for Miriam Jackson, the Members already approved up to \$1000 for the historic signs, and unanimously agreed to \$100 more in case of overage. Sandy will follow-up with the sign maker. We'll wait until next meeting for update from Ben on Fox Run sign restoration and Hoar Pond carry in/carry out signs.



**Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2020**

DPW:

Sandy advised that they removed an illegal campsite at Sweeney property and realigned boulders at Folsom.

Minutes:

The Minutes from September were previously submitted to the Secretary and the Members had no changes.

Budget, Financial Report, and Expenses:

John indicated that we have in Escrow \$3,716, LUCT 63,127.36,. There is also \$1,433.01 left of the \$2,000 budgeted from Town funding. John created a budget spreadsheet. Dan volunteered to take over the financial responsibilities. John will bring Dan up to speed.

Notification Issues:

Liz obtained a copy of the cease and desist letter from the Town for the Beard property. The Members did not have any information about the status of enforcement. Sandy and Scott will go through the mail and, if there is no update, Todd will follow-up with Planning.

Miscellaneous:

UNH Coop is presenting a seminar on Wildlife Corridors on November 17, 2020 and is looking for three volunteers.

Adjourn: 9:05 pm

Next Meeting: November 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Todd Hathaway

Todd Hathaway, Secretary