

TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 4 2021

6:00 P.M.

Conference Room, Skowhegan Community Center

PRESENT:

Tristen Hinkle, Chairman

Kate Drummond, Vice Chairman

Corey Hinkle

Barry Sites

Dylan Engler

Kevin McFadden

Cynthia Kirk, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Corey Johnson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Matt Keister, Warren Shay and Paula Beach from Skowhegan Lions Club

1) QUORUM:

Conservation Commission meeting called to order at 6:04 PM, quorum was present.

2) MINUTES OF THE April 6, 2021 CONSERVATION MEETINGS TO BE APPROVED:

Motion by Tristen Hinkle to approve the April 6, 2021 Conservation Committee minutes as written.

Seconded by Kate Drummond. Motion passed 5-0.

3) OLD BUSINESS:

-Volunteer River Monitoring Program

Kate said it looks like they are on the way to becoming a group of volunteer river monitors. They just need to pick a date to meet with Kristen Findell from Maine DEP to get trained on the equipment. Kate said it would be an hour of training then she will help them choose the sites to do the monitoring. It was determined to be May 19, 2021 to do the training.

Tristen said she was able to talk with Peter Whitkop about when he used to do the water monitoring. He told her he has some data that he can pass along to them. That way they can also look at the culverts near Whitten Brook and see what needs to be done with those. Tristen said that Peter told her to reach out to Jennifer Jespersen and Jeff Dennis at the state because they were involved with the Whitten Brook project before. Kate said that Greg Beane had advised her that they should contact the contractor that worked on the project as well.

Tristen also said they should look into doing some flyers or informational pieces about why you shouldn't dump things in streams and the impact it has. Kate said she is in favor of putting together information but they may want to do that a little way down the road so they have more concrete data to share. Matt Keister said when they do put that information out to the public, they should also include some information regarding the native fish and how these things impact them.

-Cleanup day planning

Matt Keister said he spoke with the principal about involving the students in the cleanup day and the only concerns that he had was if they found any needles while picking up. Tristen said she can talk to the resource officer and see if he would want to come with them or if there were other police that could take care of those. It was decided to schedule the cleanup day for June 9, 2021. Kevin asked if there was a trail they had in mind. Tristen said she had thought about the Whitten Brook trail. Matt said they might want to look into a trail that they could walk to instead to make it easier.

4) NEW BUSINESS:

-Rotary Club Tree Planting Project

Warren Shay from the Rotary Club and Paula Beach from the Lions Club came to discuss the tree planting program that they want to start doing in Skowhegan again. He said since the late sixties the Rotary Club and the Lions Club has a partnership in a tree planting program in town and they want to start that program up again. Their clubs planted the trees around the rotary and within Coburn Park. They would be interested in doing around 20 trees per year. Warren Shay said the plan is to get sponsors to help with the cost of the trees and when he had spoken with Greg Dore, Greg had suggested talking with the Conservation Commission. He received an estimate from Lynch Landscaping for around \$200.00 per tree.

Tristen said the forest management plan that the town has is very outdated so they may need to do some research with Greg Dore and see where the trees are really needed and what kind. Matt Keister said that seemed kind of high for the cost of trees. Tristen mentioned that maybe they could speak with Patty Cormier who is a forester, and she might have some different ideas on where to get decent trees for lower prices. Warren Shay said the ones they used to plant were good size trees and of course the cost of trees has jumped dramatically over the years. He said they would not have a problem getting smaller trees if they were able to get more of them. Kevin McFadden said that he believes that Fedco has some heritage breeds of apple trees that they don't sell but give out. So, if their apple trees die, they just come and take a piece of our tree to plant. Paula Beach said they could also reach out to the apple orchards as well and see if they would donate any trees.

Warren Shay said the town can pick out the trees and decide on where they go. The Lions and Rotary can provide the crew to plant them. Tristen suggested that they also go talk to the Selectmen to let them know what's happening.

Motion by Barry Sites that the Conservation Commission will work with the Lions Club and the Rotary on the tree planting project. Once more details are worked out about cost and placement then the Conservation Commission can commit to a specific amount to donate to the cause. Seconded by Kate Drummond

Motion passed 5-0.

-Whitten Brook Walk

5) UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES:

None

6) ADDITIONAL MEMBER & STAFF ITEMS:

Motion by Kate Drummond to recommend appointing Matt Keister to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Barry Sites. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Barry Sites to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Seconded by Kate Drummond. Motion passed 5-0.
Next meeting scheduled for June 1, 2021

Minutes approved _____, 2021

Chairman
