Biddeford Conservation Commission Memorandum

October 24, 2019

I. Call to order

Chair called to order the regular meeting of the Biddeford Conservation Commission at 7:05 PM on October 24, 2019 at City Hall.

The following commissioners were present: Ken Buechs, Tom Craven, Richard Rhames, Bill Murray, Sue Amons, Steve Reiter

Guests: 1. Dennis Lettelier
2. UNE Environmental Studies Student

II. Secretary's Report: September's amended meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Finance Report: Current $5,000.00. No change to finances

IV. Old Business:

a) School Outreach Program

b.1) BHS Field Trip to two TBWS sampling sites were supported by Tom and Steve. Kelsey Johnson and Leslie Horne, BHS Environmental Studies teachers and Jenna Martyn-Fisher from CCSWCD led the class of 19 students in sampling techniques, dissolved oxygen testing and identification of macro invertebrates.

- Site 1: Thatcher brook access behind Kohl's Department Store on Alfred Street
  Site 2: Thatcher Brook access on Medical Center Drive
- Initial results show presence of macro invertabrates at both sites
- Photos will be posted on BCC Facebook page after approval of student photos by BHS teachers.

b.2) Ken commented that Kelsey Johnson said to him that she would apply student hours to the TBWS plan and that this cannot be applied per the state mitigation grant allowances.

c) Replacement of Commissioner Marsha Reynolds

c.1) Dennis Lettelier is considering becoming a commissioner. He was in attendance. His current role as City Historian would be very helpful. Dennis lives in Ward 3.

d) BCC Outreach Coordinator Recruitment

d.1) The consideration of Consultant Biologist, Mark Ward was eliminated due partly to his own reservations and his more important role as a highly qualified environmental consultant who has been contracted by the BCC on multiple occasions.

d.2) Kayla Burdick, UNE student graduating in December was interviewed on Oct 17 by Ken, Tom and Steve. She presented well, has been in frequent communication with Ken and has the required experience. *Ken motioned to offer Kayla the position and after some discussion, the vote was approved unanimously*

V. New Business:

a) Renewal of Maine Association of Conservation Commissions for new fiscal year - Ken

Motioned, seconded and unanimously approved.

b) Status of Comprehensive Plan - Richard

b.1) Richard (and Denis Rioux) attended the October 16th meeting of the Planning Board/Comp Plan Committee where the bulk of the focus was a presentation by (Connecticut) Maine Water executive Rick Knowlton

b.2) Richard recommends that the Commission view the recording of the meeting on the city website, and draw their own conclusions, but remains on record for opposing the plans intent to add fire hydrants in more rural areas to expand development capabilities in those areas.

c) Open Space Plan – Ken

c.1) Ken discussed the "Open Space Plan". The plan is now seven years old since publication. To summarize; it was never funded and there has been no activity. The discussion centered around whether or not the BCC should pursue this as an actionable project.

d) Ken asked Tom to review the concern regarding the potential or actual closure of the Biddeford Pool clam flats.

e) Climate Change Emergency Declaration - Steve

Scope:
The need for the BCC to take a position regarding the acceptance of the scientific data regarding climate change due to atmospheric carbon gases was presented to the members. Biddeford, as a coastal city with significant shoreland infrastructure needs to consider taking a position. The facts and costs are well known. In short, the Gulf of Maine temperature is accelerating at a rate 99% faster than all other global ocean bodies (per Maine National Resource Council data). We can expect the following by end of century: 1 – 8 feet sea level rise, re-routing coastal infrastructure like Rt. 1, rebuilding water resource and sewage facilities, plummeting of property values, loss of tourism and more frequent and severe storms. The economic impacts are in the hundreds of millions. This excludes worst case scenarios such as: Antarctica and Greenland ice melting which would raise sea level by 190 feet.

This is a first step in acknowledging that Climate Change is real and requires an emergency declaration to consider future economic impacts and loss of life. Five countries have declared a

National Emergency including the UK and Canada. 822 cities and towns globally have done so. The number in the US is currently at 24, including NYC and most recently, Austin Texas.

A motion to draft a Climate Change Emergency Declaration for submittal to the Mayor and City Council was proposed by Steve, seconded by Bill and approved unanimously. Steve will prepare a draft for review by members at the November BCC meeting.

Next Meeting: tentatively scheduled for Nov 21, 2019

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Steve Reiter, Secretary