Biddeford Conservation Commission

Thursday, October 19, 2023

6:07 pm - 7:20 pm

Attendees: R. Rhames, D. Rioux, M. Atlas, E. Heumiller, and P. Conlon
Absent: M. Lowell, D. Rioux, and P. Robbins
Staff liaison: D. Galbraith

Meeting called to order: 6:07p

I. Motion to approve 9.21.23 minutes – E. Heumiller
   A. Second – P. Conlon
   B. No discussion
   C. Unanimous approval

II. Invoice to Mark has been approved

III. Winding Creek Development
   A. The case is in the courts
   B. M. Eon has had a meeting with Eastern Trail so there can be a section that connects to the trail
   C. State has new budget for community forest land

IV. Comp Plan Updates
   A. Ag section - Alex Redfield left the DACF and without anyone in the Farmland Preservation position, our Comp Plan section cannot be reviewed
   B. Thatcher Carter will attend our next meeting (November 16) to talk about implementation of Comp. Plans

V. Referenda / Conservation Concerns?
   A. R. Rhames would like to invite Portland Press Herald op-ed contributor to meet with us: Jeremy Doxsee
   B. CMP related topic – outlawing foreign spending on elections
   C. State printing of Maine constitution
      1. Tribal acknowledgement is in the constitution but left out of printed versions

VI. GIS/Website updates
   A. Website – Erik and Richard to meet and discuss
   B. GIS – some of the offline maps are back online
      1. Streams and brooks in Biddeford is back online
         a) 10 watersheds!
      2. Biddefords GIS has some maps that are not as intuitive or helpful
         a) What maps can we combine to make them more effective
         b) What is missing from the existing maps
         c) Eg – how can we help make our soil maps more effective
            (1) Update with development overlay, forest overlay, hay overlay
      3. Suggestion to make a GIS workshop agenda item in November or December

VII. New Business
   A. Meeting date change to Mondays
      1. Will discuss at the next meeting with more committee member attendance
   B. Applications for community forest grants
   C. Hidden Hills project update

1. Met deadline to submit post-preliminary approval; currently in staff review
    a) Fine tuning details of sidewalks and other planning specifics
2. Could be on November 15 or December meeting for final review
3. The parcel has been divided
    a) Split off the development portion to keep it separate from the sensitive land
    b) Could we try to spark a conversation about putting the new parcel into conservation
4. Site law review has not been completed but documentation has been submitted

VIII. NOTES: November/Winter project agenda ideas

A. Maine DEP action plan recommendation for full season of water sampling (West Brook and Swamp Pond Brook)
B. Website
C. GIS

IX. Motion to adjourn at - P. Conlon 7:20pm

A. Second - E. Heumiller
B. No discussion
C. Unanimous