

Biddeford Conservation Commission

Thursday, June 15, 2023

6:05 pm - 8:16 pm

Attendees: R. Rhames, D. Rioux, M. Lowell, M. Atlas, P. Robbins, E. Heumiller and M. Lowell

Guests: N. Whitten

Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

I. Meeting Minutes:

- A. Motion to approve meeting minutes from 5.18.23 - E. Heumiller
- B. Second M. Lowell
- C. No discussion
- D. Unanimous approval

II. Old Business

- A.
- B. Budget approved for \$3,000
- C. UPDATES
 - 1. Winding Creek – no updates, no continued construction, adding hay to absorb water
 - 2. Mark Ward update:

- a) Invoice needs to be dated June 2023 – @M. Atlas will send to Nan for payment and approval

- b) @M. Atlas to send Mark Wards preliminary report to the group

D. Comp Plan Council Action

- 1. Approved by City Council June 6, 2023
- 2. Land Acknowledgements
 - a) Maybe the commission can do a workshop or discussion, suggestion of asking city's legal council for what implications come with the term "sovereignty"
 - b) Event idea: History of the land of Biddeford (land use and tribal history)
 - (1) Invite Tad Baker to be event host?

E. Erik's List

- 1. Website - Reevaluated layout and content
 - a) Mission statement
 - b) What we do as a commission
 - (1) Understanding, evaluation, advising
 - c) Top of the page – resources about easement "what to do if you want to make a conservation easement"
 - d) Pulling Goals from Comp Plan
 - (1) Setting benchmarks based on specific comp plan goals
 - e) Definition section
- 2. Conservation acreage
 - a) Setting up a clearing house/GIS for conserved parcels
 - b) Lot # and copy of deed would help the process
 - c) CLIFFORD:
 - (1) Clifford sisters aren't under conservation, but hold deed restrictions

(2) @E. Heumiller to pull the Clifford Sister Deed – Check in with Nan about deed and land swap maps

3. Water Quality Monitoring
 - a) GIS map has 10 watersheds + feeding water bodies
 - b) What are our resources for testing?
 - (1) Mark Ward?
 - (2) UNE?
 - (3) Kristen Finedal at Maine DEP (Volunteer river monitoring program)
Addey Halligan (Biddeford Pool Research)
 - c) What needs to be tested?

F. Buildout Scenario

1. If people did what they can do, in terms of zoning, what would the city look like?

III. New Business

A. Canine Control at Clifford Park

1. Commission voted unanimously during COVID to put in a leash law
2. Enforcement as an issue across the board, for wildlife protection, trail maintenance, dogs, etc
3. Holistic consideration of management of clifford (limit trail usage, manage unhouse people, dogs off leash, mountain bike trail discussion)
4. Carl thought Grace Glynn report requested that dogs be leashed
5. Joe Kenney
 - a) Letter to Council
6. State law (hunting) – control of dog at all times unless a dog is on the scent of prey
7. Holistic needs of park and residents
 - a) How do we enforce, how do we educate?
8. Can we meet with the rec commission to discuss options to support conservation
 - a) Or do we submit information in written form
9. @M. Atlas to reach out to Joe McKenney and Carl Walsh to see about engaging to and add to the conversation about options to manage the park resources and consider other leash law options

B. Yardscaping –

1. Less informative than we would have liked
2. BCC to consider adding more information to beef up the information
 - a) Show citizens the impact of chemicals, present more alternatives (lists of species), watershed gis

C. Alternative energy at the Airport (Bobby Mills led plan)

D. Andrews Road conservation easement – now with the right to add alternative energy

IV. Other Business -

- A. Viewed a photo of an example of the Saco development application roadside signage
 1. This could be helpful to getting public input on projects, hearings, policy changes
- B. *Motion to share photo of sacco Application Review signage and request that Biddeford consider implementing a similar program. -M. Atlas 8:11p*
 1. *Second E. Heumiller*
 2. *No discussion*
 3. *Unanimous*
- C. Salt usage near Thatcher Brook
 1. Hauling salt from downtown to the hill off Main Street near Rotary Park

- V. Motion to adjourn - 8:16 E. Heumiller
 - A. Second M. Lowell
 - B. No Discussion
 - C. Unanimous