



## **Biddeford Conservation Commission Minutes**

April 23, 2020

### **I. Call to order**

Chair called to order the regular meeting of the Biddeford Conservation Commission at 6 PM on April 30, 2020 via on-line Zoom application.

Commissioners present: Richard Rhames, Chrystina Gastelum, Steve Reiter, Ken Buechs

Commissioners not present: Sue Amons, Bill Murray, Tom Craven

Educational Outreach Coordinator: Kayla Burdick

Secretary's Report February 2020: Motion to approve (KB), second (SR); approved unanimously

### **II. Finance Report:** Unavailable

### **III. Old Business:**

#### **a) TBWS Educational Outreach (Lead: Kayla)**

- High School field trip cancelled. Suggestions and encouragement that Kayla continue to work on projects including a BCC identification graphic, a water quality crossword puzzle and enhancement of on-line/apps to highlight BCC activities.
- BCC was invited to participate in Phase 3, York County Soil & Water Commission grant proposal. Motion (via email) SR, second (KB), affirmative by KB, SR, BM, CG

#### **b) Climate Change Emergency Declaration (Leads: Steve)**

- The Chair will encourage the City Council to take up the resolution at the May 19 meeting. Commissioners were encouraged to contact their Ward Councilors to support enactment.

#### **c) Biddeford Pool Contamination Update: (Lead: Ken)**

The York County Soil & Water Commission has solicited BCC support and involvement in a grant proposal to search for the source of problems with water quality within the Biddeford Pool Watershed. Motion (via email) KB), second (SR), approved by KB, SR, SA, BM, TC.

#### **d) Wildlife Study Waiver Update: (Lead: Richard)**

- Not scheduled for final Planning Board review yet.

e) Comp Plan Update (Lead: Richard)

- Little status is known due to COVID-19 delays
- Plan is not yet addressing natural resources
- Plan is still in draft form and being reviewed
- Contact has been made with City Council concerning the need for fully open public hearings.

f) Natural Resource Database Update (Lead: Richard)

- Database update has been completed by Mark Ward and entered into City database; invoice submitted for approval and payment.

#### **IV. New Business:**

Steve reported on meeting with Saco Conservation Commission on April 27. BCC Climate Change Emergency Resolution was enthusiastically received; Saco will proceed on similar proposal. Future collaboration between our organizations are anticipated.

The prospect of conducting a natural resource inventory of Clifford Park was discussed, cost \$1500. Heart of Biddeford has a \$1000 grant for the study. Motion to appropriate the \$500 balance (CG), second (SR), approved (via email) CG, SR, KB, BM).

County Court House Contract Zone proposal is coming before the Planning Board May 6. A list of concerns were discussed and CG offered to document and submit via email for consideration.

**Next Meeting:** scheduled for May 21, 2020 at 6PM.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Ken Buechs, Secretary