

Biddeford Conservation Commission

Thursday, February 17, 2022

6:02 - 8:09 pm

Virtual Attendees: C. Gastelum, M. Atlas, K. Buechs, R. Rhames, M. Lowell, E. Heumiller

Absent: T. Craven

Virtual guests: H. Bonine

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm
2. *K. Buechs motion to approve minutes from 1.20.22 at 6:04p*
 - a. *Second by R. Rhames at 6:05*
 - b. *Unanimous approval (E. Heumiller and M. Lowell abstained because they were not present at 1.20.22 meeting)*
3. Introductions
4. Old Business
 - a. GIS Mapping of Land Inventory-R. Rhames
 - Update on the functionality of the maps
 - Questions surrounding “farmland” and “working forest land” and where they fit in the current maps
 - Alex Redfield; Farm Viability and Farmland Protection Specialist. New addition to Division of Agricultural Resource Development. Richard reached out to get clarification on data
 - H. Bonine updates:
 - GIS Collector allows you to collect new data
 - New layer will be added to the Farmlands map that will reflect the pins that are added via GIS Collector
 - @H. Bonine will download and share the current list of farm categories in the app
 - Next Steps:
 - Data collection
 - @R. Rhames to talk to Greg about data set
 - R. Rhames suggestion:
 - List from Maine Forest Service, tree growth, crowdsourcing
 - @H. Bonine, can you please send a list of what Greg has already put together as far as far as working landscape lists
 - K. Buechs wants to be sure that we’re following up fully on the Mark Ward involvement
 - b. Winding Creek Road development
 - R.. Rhames update from Planning board meeting
 - The proposed plan has been slightly shrunk
 - It seems understood that the setbacks are not sufficient and actually intrudes into the lots
 - Planning board asked for more input from wildlife outfit
 - @C. Gastelum - clarify with the Planning Board where the request for additional (external party, ideally Mark Ward) research stands.

- c. Hidden Hills
 - Has not been on Planning Board agenda
 - @M. Atlas to meet with C. Gastelum to get up to speed about where we stand with our requests. @M. Atlas to follow up with related parties.
 - K. Buechs – We asked the city attorney for an opinion on the two overlays, can we have an update on that request?
- d. Comprehensive Plan update
 - Public hearing session March 8 + 10
- e. Budget Update
 - Full budget is still
 - \$500 pending withdrawal for Climate Event
 - \$200 (potentially) for Mark Ward
 - \$132 invoice from Mark Ward
 - @C. Gastelum to submit for payment
- 5. New Business
 - a. Election of officers:
 - *K. Buechs makes a motion to have Chrystina Gastelum as chair; Richard Rhames as Vice-Chair; Maya Atlas as Secretary at 7:44 pm*
 - *Second by Erik Heumiller at 7:44p*
 - *Unanimous approval*
 - b. *R. Rhames moves to table membership discussion at 7:46 p*
 - *Second Erik Heumiller 7:47p*
 - *In favor: C. Gastelum, E. Heumiller, R. Rahmes, M. Lowell*
 - *Not in Favor: K. Buechs*
- 6. Other Business
 - a. Old Town Road
 - New sub development proposal (not yet at the planning board level)
 - Who will render a legal opinion as to the status of the road
 - R. Rhames is concerned about the potential determination of whether the Old Town Road still retains public rights and whether it provides rights of access to people who formerly had property served by Old Town Road. Concern around who will make that determination.
 - b. Commissions use of funds and required approval
 - @C. Gastelum will follow up with Matt Eddy to seek clarity around the big picture question of how and when we can use our funds.
- 7. *K. Buechs motion to adjourn at 8:09 p*
 - a. *Second by E. Huemiller at 8:09p*