

**City of Biddeford
Conservation Commission**

January 29, 2024 6:00 PM Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/92636503583?pwd=YVlxT24xMmVyUDB4ZjR3Qit6MjFEZz09> Webinar ID #926
3650 3583, Passcode 023144

Status: Conservation Commission, Monday, January 29, 2024, 6:00 PM, Second Floor Conference Room
& Zoom

Attendees:

Richard Rhames, Denis Rioux, Michael Lowell, Petter Robbins, Erik Heumiller, Maya Atlas

1. Adjustments to the Agenda

2. Election of Officers

2.1. Committee Officer Elections:

Chair — Richard Rhames

Vice Chair — Maya Atlas

Secretary — Erik Heumiller

Nominated by: DR to accept current (2023) roster

Seconded: ML

Amended by: EH suggested swapping roles with MA

Vote: Unanimous

3. Secretary Report

3.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 5, 19, November 16 & December 19,
[2023 BCC Special Meeting Notes 10.5.23 Draft.pdf](#)

- RR would like to remove/amend the discussion section to ensure it includes all points that were actually discussed in the meeting - he thinks things are missing or one-sided.
- EH suggested removing the discussion section and inserting a link to the video instead.
- EH noted that there will be further discussion around the future of Clifford Park as the Clifford Park Master Plan gets underway.
- DG noted that collaboration with the Rec Comm will be well received.

Motion: DR to accept / Seconded: PR / Vote: Unanimous

[BCC Meeting Notes 10.19.23 Draft \(1\).pdf](#)

[BCC Meeting Notes Nov 16_Draft \(002\).pdf](#)

[BCC Meeting Notes Dec 18 Draft.pdf](#)

Motion: EH to accept / Seconded: DR / Vote: Unanimous

4. Discussions

4.1. Website Content Discussion

[BCC - Web - 01 - Website-Content-2023-Updates.pdf](#)

[BCC - Web - 02 - PDF 1 - What Does the BCC Do.pdf](#)

[BCC - Web - 03 - PDF 2 - Development Considerations.pdf](#)

[BCC - Web - 04 - PDF 3 - Conservation Stats.pdf](#)

RR discussion about BCC mission statement and the importance of “working lands” in the language. Working landscapes provide a significant amount of undeveloped land to the City of Biddeford.

EH reached out to Ken Buechs, has access to the [BCC Facebook page](#).

- EH would like to start posting links to our meetings as well as any relevant news or other projects of interest to Biddeford residents.

*Tabled until the Feb. 26, 2024 meeting.

*All BCC commissioner feedback due by 2/15 to allow for time to revise.

Governor’s Climate Task Force is re-engaged in 2024. Their current projections estimate that 3% of Farmland in the state is in permanent conservation — aligning with some of the estimates in our documents.

Maine at large has roughly 24% forestland in conservation in the northern areas.

4.2. Beaver Update

Airport Commission/Public Works Director said they have reached out to IFW.

They are actively trapping and removing beaver.

They had never heard about the “beaver deceiver” and will consider it

4.3. Working Lands Index

- RR connected with Greg Copeland (GIS dept.) about making updates.
- Mark Ward may be able to interface with Greg with our guidance.
- Thatcher Carter noted a new designation.
- Western Biddeford growing a lot of hay.
- Schedule F tax return - show a \$2000 return.
- Tree growth requires a management plan every 10 years.
- 1990 Comp. Plan has a list of parcels/owners that had done forestry cuts, we can start with that list to identify these lands.

*DR note/question about subdivisions and the current need for mandatory clustering in RSO.

- DG noted that the City requires a developer to provide a traditional plan and a cluster subdivision plan.
- DG says the Planning Board decides between the two, but RR/DR stated that Cluster Subdivisions used to be mandatory - DG will look into it.

4.4. Televised Meeting Status

- RR stated that Nan mentioned that Monday's are reserved for City Council.
- Owl recordings are sent to DG — he forwards to Nan and she posts online.
- It seems the new video/audio setup in City Council chambers is lacking quality and is a barrier to the public watching.

5. Other Business

5.1. RR still cannot access city email — DG to follow up with City staff to follow up.

5.2. Gorham Connector news? Relevant to Biddeford bypass?

5.3. Mike Lowell has a recommendation for a conservation easement.

- Lot 1-19, 25.65 acres
- Abutted by Lot 1.61, 23 acres (Saco Valley Land Trust)
- Looking into Lot 1-70, 62 acres (Boy Scouts of America)
 - Lot 1-69, part of 1-70
 - Gary Russo (PR contact)
- Lot 1-14-1, 250 acres in conservation via Maine Coast Heritage Trust?
 - DG to follow up and confirm
- ML has observed deer wintering habitat on Lot 1-19
- Sand washes down from Wadleigh Pond in Lyman, creating great nesting habitat for Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout
 - Swan Pond Brook is the first and last option for Atlantic Salmon
 - Can document reeds in the fall
- Lots of old-growth pine, alders, white/red oak
- Natural Areas Program (IFW) will document the Tupelo trees reported on Lot 2-1.
- Water from Swan Pond Brook discharges above the Maine Water intake.
- RR to invite Keith Fletcher to our next meeting
- EH to email Garry at Saco Salmon Restoration Alliance and Hatchery

5.4. RR questions about a proposed State body that would have oversight on LD2003.

- LD1976 could be the document in question — DG to follow up.

5.5. New Planning Dept. Director started 1/29/2024 — George Duvet.
New applicants/interviews happening for Eric's vacated City Planner position.

5.6. DACF has hired a replacement for Alex Redfield's vacant position.

- This role will review portions of Biddeford's Comp. Plan.

6. Next Meeting-Monday, February 26, 2024, 6:00 PM-Second Floor Conference Room

- Richard would prefer Council Chambers and will be asking for that.

7. Adjourn (at 7:5 PM)

Motion to adjourn: ML

Seconded: PR

Vote: Unanimous