

Poland Conservation Commission
Minutes of 6-11-14

Members Present: Fred Huntress (co-chairperson), Don Stover (co-chairperson), John Crouch, John Laskey, Sue Ellis, Keith Messer, Steve Robinson (Selectboard Liaison) and Scott Segal (Administrative Liaison) Absent: Sandra Knowles.

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

Minutes of 4-9-14 were reviewed and accepted with one correction. John Laskey's name to be included as present.

Waterhouse Park:

Don presented a proposal containing the details of the park open space project to the Board of Selectman and the Planning Board. The Board of Selectman voted in favor of the project. The Planning Board reviewed the project and accepted the proposal with the following conditions; that Nick Adams review and approve the plans for the shrubbery, improvements to carry-in boat launch, location of one or two picnic tables and improved parking area. The Planning Board must approve the construction of the bridge that will span the dam spillway.

Hilt Hollow Area:

The discussion continued on the ownership of the road and the fact that TM Mortgage is signing over the deed for the road to the town. The discussion continued to include many possible solutions on the Hilt and Lalibertie right of ways. It was stressed during the discussion the importance of retaining town ownership of a portion Hilt Hollow to complete the proposed construction of a trail system and recreation open space area between the the town complex and the high school.

Furman Property:

Fred attended a meeting with Jennifer Furman, the outcome of the meeting was favorable for the purchase of the property.

Ms. Furman offered to sell the property for approximately half of the recently appraised value of the property. The appraised value for the 32 acre parcel is \$64,000, she agreed to sell the property for \$32,800 and donate the remaining \$31,200 to the Town of Poland under the following conditions; that the property be purchased by the date of December 31, 2014 and that the property remain as open space for a town recreational area.

The discussion continued with the fact the commission will approach the Board of Selectman for approval for the property to be accepted as town property, without the use of town funds, with town approval to accept the property for recreational use.

Upon approval a purchase agreement without good faith monies that will be due to expire 12/31/14 will be offered to Ms. Furman by the town, that will allow the commission to raise the funds through private donations to purchase the property.

In further discussion the fact that upon purchase deed restrictions should be in place to restrict other uses than recreation for perpetuity.

Grant Writing:

Scott Segal, Steve Robinson and the commission members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the availability of grants and how the town could benefit from an individual or individuals to apply for grants coupled with the Business Friendly Community status.

Steve noted the Brad Plante (town manager) is aware of the importance and benefit of these programs and will communicate through the proper channels, also mentioned that grant writing training is available for \$425/person and that Brad is planning to attend and possibly one other individual.

Scott explained the application process for grants and provided a few examples of available grants in the area of Conservation:

Waterhouse Park would be eligible for monies through the "Land and Water Conservation Fund".

The proposed trails in the municipal area would qualify for the "Recreational Trail Grant" which is a matching grant 20% town/80% grant monies.

Bureau of Parks and Land are accepting grant applications. Mich Rogers from the bureau is planning a pre-site walk of Waterhouse Park within several weeks for the pre-application process.

Jamal Tourres of Healthy Androscoggin met with Scott and Don a couple of weeks ago for a "Rural Active Living Assessment" which is municipal assessment as a tool to aid in the development in safe recreation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectively submitted by,

Keith Messer