

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016**

Present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Allison Knab, Joe Lovejoy, Dan McAuliffe

The public session was called to order at 7:03pm.

CC minutes

Joe motioned to approve June 22 minutes as written, Bob seconded. Motion passed.

Mail

- RCCD sent a copy of the Saltbox Farm easement monitoring report. The report indicated that there were several areas with piles of trash that had been dumped. Allison will contact RCCD to find out if they are requesting corrective action.
- Allison received an email indicating that filling was being conducted along the Squamscott River at 41 Squamscott Rd. Allison forwarded the information to Mark to look into concerns.

Library Story Walk

Sara Arnold and Samantha Lucius, Wiggin Memorial Children's Librarians, came before the CC to discuss their proposed plans for a "story walk" through Stratham Hill Park and the Town Forest. They will be creating "stations" which will have a page of a book on a short 4x4 post, with a shelf with the page that will be covered with plexiglass. Seth has been consulted and Colin would be doing installation. The posts will be cemented into the ground. They are proposing to place approximately 16 stations, about half in the park and ½ in the forest at the edge of the brush along the trail that goes around the pond. The book will be geared towards elementary school age children and their families.

Concerns raised:

- These posts would not be conducive to maintaining the "natural" environment of the town forest.
- Sign posts along trails in the past have been a target for vandals.
- It is unclear if these permanent structures would have any impacts on wetlands or setbacks, and no specific locations were available.
- Would these posts hinder bikers?
- Has the Park Association been told of this proposal? It has not gone before the Selectmen yet.
- It was proposed that some posts may have commercial "advertising" thanking those businesses who supported the effort. This was strongly discouraged.

The Library would like to have this all done and installed by August 5.

Tim came in late to the meeting at 7:43 and was brought up to speed on the discussion.

Tim moved, Joe seconded, support with conditions including a plan for removal if vandalism occurs, locations are determined to see if there would be wetland impacts, the number of posts in the forest would not exceed 6.

The motion passed with Dan voting against and Pat abstaining.

Allison will write a letter of support to the Selectmen and work with the library on this project.

Stratham Parade Float

The float for the Stratham 300th parade was discussed. The CC had previously discussed making the float about recycling. Pat presented several ideas and photos for consideration. The CC decided to use Joe's 8x6 flatbed trailer for the float. We will be creating a composting display, showing a pile of what can go in a composter, with a composter in the middle, and finished compost with some flower pots. We will also be getting a banner for the float that can be used at other CC events. One idea was "Stratham 300 years and still "growing", giving a nod to our agricultural history. We will also include the banner that lists all the properties that have been conserved. Those participating in the parade from the CC will wear green shirts (maybe tie dyed?!)

Reimbursement

Tim motioned, Pat seconded, to reimburse Allison for up to \$90 for her purchase for a garden cart for the SMS school garden donation.

Bob moved, Tim seconded, a motion to cancel the July 27 Conservation Commission meeting due to the limited number of members available to attend. Motion Passed. Allison will request this be posted.

Tim moved, Bob seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Elwell