

Conservation Commission Meeting

March 18, 2014

Present at the meeting were;

Steve Johnson, Jerry Loiselle, Vicky Battle, Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro-DeSantis, Keith Dunn, Oden

No Public Comments

Minutes from February 25, 2014 meeting were accepted.

Agenda:

460 Bic Drive: proposal of affordable housing under state statute 830-G

- 7.83 acres
- Steve and Bill walked the site
- We will comment about low impact development suggestions.

Open Space Parcels:

- Take site walks, encourage commissioners to adopt several open space parcels that they can monitor and advise of any issues.
- Build a simple baseline monitoring document for open space properties
- There are concerns of certain properties that need to be observed and

Grants:

America the Beautiful

- Open Space Survey
- What's important about Open Space in our area
- Might use Survey Monkey to allow people to voice their opinions about open space.

Beaver Brook Boardwalk:

- Approved \$500,000 to rebuild the boardwalk and incorporate handicap access, as well as removal of, and control of invasive species.
- This will be a fall-winter project.

Other grants:

- \$6,700 grant from Dept. of Agriculture for water quality training.
- Earthplace Harbor/River Watch's certified labs will test the samples of the water.

Earth Day:

- Earth Day will be, Saturday, May 17th
- There will be hands-on service at Wilcox Park from 9:00am to 12. It will include invasive plant removal and native planting.
- Eco-fest is the same day.
- There will be an educational component to the day.
- Science projects will be displayed by students from local schools featuring one student's science fair project from St. Gab's.

Eco-Collab will likely take place in the fall.

NCRS Services: National Resource Conservation Service

- They have an Emergency Watershed Protection and Easement Program
- Landowners can apply to this program if their properties connect directly to protected floodplains like tidal marshes and wetlands.
- If accepted, NCRS would place a permanent conservation easement on this property and demolish any structure within the easement, returning the land to natural marsh.
- Only a select # of properties have been sponsored by the city at this time.
- If accepted, NCRS will pay money to the landowner based on appraisals.
- The city sponsored 4 properties with houses that have been heavily damaged by Sandy and Irene.
- Three of them were next to the Silver Sands Great Creek Marsh.

- One was on the Calf Pen Meadow marsh.
- None were selected in the first round because the properties were deemed too small to increase the floodplain potential.
- Second round applications are due on April 16th.

Open Space Grant Application:

- Open Space Advisory Committee evaluated several parcels for the 3/31/14 Open Space grant application round.
- We elected not to apply at this time.
- We needed more information and would need about 3 months to schedule an appraisal to meet application deadline requirements.