

South Portland Conservation Commission Minutes
2/6/17

Attending: Megan Sheehan, Dan Hogan, Bret Bergst, Rick Foss-Lacey, Bob McKeagney, Barbara Dee, Jody Meredith

Size of Commission: Following our meeting with the City Council, we had a follow up discussion about the size of the Commission. The general consensus was that nine members would be preferable. Megan will forward this to Josh Reny and Emily Carrington who will put a resolution forward to the City Council - possibly for the February 22nd meeting. Dan Hogan plans to go to that meeting. Our current membership is seven, so there will be a need to have two more people added.

Communication with City Council: It is now clear that Councilors regularly get our minutes. There was some question on our part about whether we need or want to provide additional updates. Megan will request clarification from Emily Carrington.

Freshwater Compensation Fund: General discussion of the Council's reaction to the proposal. Members feel there is a need for a priority list of projects that need restoration. We may want to get input from Fred Dillon and Wendy Garland on this. We may also want to consult with the Planning Board as they are responsible for designating who must contribute to the fund. Bob McKeagney will contact Fred and Wendy (and possibly someone from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District as well) to get input to help us develop this list.

Community Forum: Members decided to change the date of the forum to April 26th in order to avoid vacation week and accommodate Wendy Garland's schedule. The Nature Conservancy has a display of how a watershed works - we may want to try to borrow that for the forum. We also need to reach out to Jane Eberle to get the schools involved and Joanna Martell who did the planting project at Barberry Creek. For the stream walks, we came up with a tentative list of guides. No specific plan was taken to contact these people - we will follow up at the next meeting. Jody will contact the historical society to see if they have pictures of the streams and how they have changed through time.

Open Space Plan: Barbara Dee plans to do some background research about who does this work and how much it costs. Members decided it made sense for the old Open Space group to meet one more time to talk about how to move forward with a larger scale proposal. Barbara also plans to contact Tom Meyer about Cape's Open Space Plan.

Portland Street Pier: Based on the information available to the Commission, there are several concerns about the proposed aquaculture use of the pier. At present only four of the six berths can be used at the pier because there is a need for dredging. Members felt this was a project that the Commission should take an interest in because it was on the open space list and there

is nothing protecting it presently. Dan Hogan will draft a letter and this will be an agenda item for our next meeting.

New City Manager: We would like to invite him to a meeting

Agendas: Dan Hogan is following City Council agendas to see if/when conservation related items are presented. Bob McKeagney is following the Planning Board