

Conservation Commission Minutes
5/1/17

Present: Megan Sheehan, Bob McKeagney, Jody Meredith, Dan Hogan, Bret Bergst
Absent: Barbara Dee

Minutes from 4/24/17 were approved

Rick Foss-Lacey has resigned from the Commission, so there is a current opening from Councilor Rose's district. There is someone who has expressed interest. Dan will email the City Clerk to find out how to proceed.

As a result of the Stream Forum, we have had two people express interest in applying for the Freshwater Compensation Fund grants - one a resident near Trout Brook who wants to work on reducing invasive plants, and another to build a raingarden. In preparing for the awarding of grants, Bob has met with Pat Cloutier of Water Resources Protection. Bob created and distributed a number of documents to guide applicants and to help with the management of the grants. Each grant recipient will have a member of the Commission to oversee the implementation of the grant. Additionally Bob presented a proposal for working more closely with the Water Resources Protection Department and recommended a meeting of Megan, Bob and Pat Cloutier in the near future to discuss priorities. Pat will also attend one of the Commission's meetings in the near future. Bob will also email a copy of the Freshwater Compensation Fund 2001 report to members of the Commission.

The first guided stream walk will be on Saturday, May 6th at 9:00 am on Red Brook. Tom Blake will be leading. We are still having trouble accessing the Commission's Facebook page which is listed as the contact point for interested residents. Bret, Megan and Jody will all work to get the word out. Bret will prepare a spreadsheet of the email addresses of those who attended the forum. We will email all Forum attendees prior to the stream walks. May 13, 2017 will be the Trout Brook walk with Wendy Garland and Jon Dore. May 20, 2017 will be Barberry Creek and members of the Commission will guide on that walk. Other guides for Kimball and Long Creek will be decided at the next meeting.

In reflecting about the Stream Forum, most felt that the event itself was informative and provided good contacts with other environmental organizations. The turnout for the event was about 50 people - a large number of whom were there from environmental organizations. All felt it would have been positive to have a greater connection with the schools at the event.

The Open Space letter has been sent. We need to determine what the next steps should be and maintain consistency of communication. Further discussion of the request for an Open Space Planning Process and the development of O'Neill Street will be covered in the next meeting.

Next meeting, May 15th at 6:30 at the conference room at the South Portland Recreation Center.