

August 20, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

1. Members present: Dan, Cory, Barbara, Michael
 - a. Public present: None
 - b. Member absences: Jody, Megan
2. Prior meeting minutes approved by all members present
3. Update on Freshwater Compensation Fund (FWCF)
 - a. Bret will reach out to contacts at Greater Portland Christian School to see what the interest is in doing some conservation work. Perhaps a good candidate for a grant from us.
 - b. Ponds of Hinckley Park: South Portland Land Trust (SPLT) did a project there about 3 years ago to keep people on the paths and not eroding the soil. Also constructed a set of steps into the pond for dogs. Megan has on her list to do; Dan may help on this.
 - c. Other city employees were contacted but no input from them thus far.
4. Old Joe's Pond
 - a. No update.
5. Open Space Forum
 - a. No update.
 - b. Presentation this Thursday on "hidden gems of South Portland."
6. Meeting with Julie Rosenbach – City Sustainability Coordinator
 - a. Project at Bug Light Park
 - b. Water quality at Mill Creek
 - c. Working on a plan with Portland to address climate change. An RFP is out to help create a climate change action plan. We will get a copy of that soon.
 - d. City has a resolve to have 80% energy needs be from clean sources by the year 2050. An idea is out there to do a citywide energy mapping.
 - e. Energy expo is happening at USM on October 20th.
 - f. Stonyfield yogurt has nationwide effort to encourage organic farming. South Portland is one of a handful of recipients of project funding. Next to the Historical Society at Bug Light Park there will be a demonstration area.
 - g. Recycling is a HUGE problem in that people are putting non-recyclable material in the recycling bins, causing machinery to be broken and recycling to be rejected.
7. Meeting with Longcreek Watershed Management and SPLT
 - a. Informed them of our grant program.
 - b. Learned that their funding is almost entirely from private landowners who must form a watershed plan or join the management district. They seem to not need any financial help from us. Nevertheless, working with them in the future would be a helpful thing to do.
 - c. Sable Oaks is the largest "clean" water source in the watershed. Pete Carney is concerned that this area will soon be heavily developed, increasing impervious surfaces and lowering water quality. We agreed to keep each other informed as proposals for development arise and that the commission would weigh in with the city council, planning board & staff as appropriate.