

Minutes of the Environmental Resource Comm. Feb. 4, 2021

Present: Doug Smith, Sarah Rodriguez, Diane Aromando, Tony Hodgdon,
Joanne McKee ,Lauren Jordan, Alicia Howes

The meeting came to order at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted and approved.

Lake Association update: Dick Allen was unable to attend.

Parks and Recreation:

Sarah has planned an outdoor scavenger hunt for families during Feb. school break.

Her proposed budget was presented to the budget committee and will now go to the selectboard for review. The ERC budget is part of this budget and is \$1300. Questions were asked about the workshops that we hope to attend and it was thought that , although they may link to information we need to work within the updated comprehensive plan, which has yet to be approved, it was better to put most of these in the 2022 -23 budget.

There is no line item listed in this year's budget for ERC. Sarah will check with the finance director about this and clarify if we can use some of the funds from Parks and Recs budget with Sarah's approval . This was the Committees' understand with the previous recreation director. Sarah will let us know what funds might be available from her budget for our use.

Public displays etc.

Tony announced that he and Trudy will be resigning at the end of this fiscal year. They will still work on the recycling information and will do the annual report. Lauren is interested in becoming a member.

Joanne has not heard back from the RI master gardens about the possible purchase of more seeds for our planned distribution program of seeds and gardening information. If funds are available, we may be able to purchase additional seeds. Diane will also check with someone at Pine Tree Seeds for putting us on a list for extra seeds. Joanne will check with Fedco seeds as well. Further plans for this project will be discussed next month. Information will be given to Sarah for printing and the poster originally made will be updated.

Since we will be wearing masks and following precautions for some time, we have to think of additional ways to distribute information to the community besides the NGXchange and library. Using the schools, Pineland and the

fairgrounds' display boxes are some thoughts and again the Library once it is open.

Lower village project:

Terry Dewan is working on a plan for potential trails. DEP still has to examine the area for the proposed 3rd ball field.

Stevens Brook Project: No information.

Recycling resolution: Doug will continue to follow up with the Town Manager as will Sarah.

New Business:

Joanne and Alicia attended the the Agriculture and Trade show presentation via Youtube on identifying tree diseases in winter presented the Maine Dept. of Forestry. The presentation will be forwarded to other members to look at, esp. identifying brown tail moth nests.

Ned Claxton's Jan. 29th newsletter had information about grants for community forests that are available each year. Two types of grants are available: Planning and Education for up to \$10,000 and Planting and Maintenance for up to \$8000. To apply for the grant, it is mandatory to attend a grant writing workshop. More information will be sent on to members.

Joanne also signed to receive newsletters from the Maine DEP on environmental news and also on wastewater. She also signed up for two newsletters from the ME Dept Agriculture and Forestry on possible grants for recreational trails and on boating facility funds.

The next meeting will be March 4, 2021 at 5 pm via Zoom.
The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Joanne McKee, Secretary