

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Bremen Library Meeting Room
Monday, December 4, 2017

BCC Members Present: Virginia Betts, Terry Marsh, Ann Nesslage, Christa Thorpe,
Daniel Ungier, Mary Voskian

Selectman Liaison Present: Wendy Pieh

BCC Associate Members Excused: Mary Berger, Susan Davis, Judy Stephan

Daniel Ungier was our chair for this meeting. The meeting opened at 5:05

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the November 6 meeting. Christa noted that she is continuing to ask Baird Littlefield to join the Conservation Commission.

We moved, seconded and voted to change the time and day of our meetings to the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 at the Bremen Library. All agreed.

We reviewed the issues around trail maintenance and invasive bittersweet at the Hilton O'Connor trail in the Town Forest. We need to have a plan of what specifically needs to be done, be purposeful and have a sense of priority. Virginia will call Joan Ray and ask her to walk the trail with us and tell us what she finds. We are looking for advice re: prioritization and methods and disposal. Terry will contact the State of Maine also.

We hope to have regularly scheduled trail work times and solicit volunteers. Saturdays or weekdays? It was decided to try late afternoon weekdays first. We may go back and forth with the schedule until we know what works the best. Another suggestion was to schedule three times a year a work day combined with a pot luck celebrating land conservation in Bremen. The Medomak Valley Land Trust has a group of repeat volunteers weekly and a monthly Saturday morning 9-12. We plan to start in late March or April. Christa will reach out to Charlie Scimone at Lincoln Academy.

Website and document review: Christa distributed a print out of what comes up on the Town of Bremen website after clicking on the Conservation Commission. Christa will be happy to write a new updated version. We can highlight our current work. We will all review the Conservation plan for Bremen document with a eye to updating it. We will review it before the Jan 11 meeting. Our Conservation Plan fits into the 2004 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Bremen, which was a great deal of work and is a guidepost for our work. Therefore our updating of the Conservation Plan should align with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Conservation Account: We need to ask the town office if and what are the written ordinances pertaining to both the account and the mission of the Conservation Commission. The original vote to establish the Town Conservation Account may have included some details. Possibly it was established in 2007. Dennis Prior may remember some details of when the

account was established. Currently the account has \$27,359.91, and is probably in a savings account at the 1st National Bank in Damariscotta. We need to have some information before the June Town meeting, as we in the past have made the motion to fund the Town Conservation Account. Wendy suggested that we could write a warrant that could be adopted at the June meeting, especially if an original one is not found. We hope to have a formal ordinance outlining the purpose of the Conservation Commission. Also a formal ordinance about the purpose of the Town Conservation Account. Wendy and Ann will research.

An event screening the documentary "Finding Balance between Nature and Culture", a film by Michael Ireland is planned for Thursday March 22 at the Bremen Library. Daniel will speak and Christa will introduce. Ann will notify the library to reserve the meeting room. Thanks to Mary V. for bringing this idea and having the film. This event could help publicize our trail clean up volunteering opportunities.

Christa will email the Town of Bremen to change our scheduled meeting times.

Ann will ask Kevin to send the PDF of the map of Clam Island.

At our next meeting we will plan publicity for the March 22 film screening event. Also on the upcoming agenda: the need for a bridge at the wet estuary area of the Hilton O'Connor trail.

Mary V. will chair the next meeting Thursday, January 11 at 5:00 at the Bremen Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05

Respectfully submitted by Terry Marsh