

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Approved Minutes
Bremen Library
December 5, 2018

BCC Members Present: Terry Marsh, Ann Nesslage, Christa Thorpe, Mary Voskian

Selectman Liaison Excused: Wendy Pieh

BCC Member Excused: Daniel Ungier

BCC Associate Members Present: Virginia Betts, Susan Davis

BCC Associate Members Excused: Mary Berger

Christa Thorpe was our chair for this meeting. The meeting opened at 5:05

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the November 7, 2018 minutes.

Virginia will put a paper copy of the minutes in our archival records. Christa will update our website with past approved minutes. She also plans to post information about invasive plants. Christa will ask the town to put a link on the town website.

We talked about doggie waste bags and a dispenser for them to be installed at the Hay property down at the shore near the trash receptacle. Mary will ask about this at the next selectman meeting. The town could install the dispenser and bags. Mary will share resources of where to find these products.

Christa and Juanita will visit the kiosk at the Hay Conservation and Recreation property and make a plan for material to post.

Mary reported on her first meeting with the committee formed to work on the town center project. Mary plans to share the notes from their meetings with the town and the Conservation Commission. In their first meeting they talked about a boat design to be incorporated into a children's playground. Christa suggested contacting Ken Stevenson at Lincoln Academy as the students could work on playground designs.

Mary researched the numbers of young people in Bremen. There are approximately 119 residents under age 18. There are 28 babies and toddlers not in school yet. A suggestion was made to put this information on the display about the project at the town office.

We plan to suggest changing to motion sensor lights where possible around town properties.

We will write a letter to the selectmen. This initiative will be brought forward in January.

Christa will meet with Yvonne at the library to plan a 'winter series' of Thursday evening talks focused on the ocean, the watershed and the shore. The library can become a meeting place, and be used as a 'think tank'. Christa hopes to have a poster with all the presenters and dates lined up at our Jan 2 meeting.

Susie met with Joan Ray to get advice about best practices for stewarding our town open spaces. A baseline document for every property with boundaries, history, location, and special characteristics should be created.

We should: monitor the properties annually, checking trail signs, boundaries are clear, any needed repairs, feedback from users, invasive plants?

Each property should have a management plan. Conservation easements can protect these places from being sold in the future.

By the end of 2019, we hope to have baseline documents, management plans and at least find out what is possible with conservation easements.

Christa noted that we are a volunteer committee and teaming up with a land trust might help us accomplish these goals.

We could start an "adopt a town property" initiative where volunteers monitor.

We question where the lines of responsibility lie between us and the town? We will reopen this important topic at our next meeting.

Susie will meet with Jim Murphy to begin to get a handle on what properties we should be including. Joan Ray will give Susie a form for monitoring properties.

Ann will chair our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15

Our next meeting is January 2, 2019 starting at 5:00 PM.

Thanks, Terry Marsh (minute recorder for the BCC)