

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Draft Minutes
Bremen Library
January 2, 2019

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

Selectman Liaison Excused: Wendy Pieh

BCC Associate Members Present: Virginia Betts, Mary Berger

BCC Associate Members Excused: Susan Davis

Visitor present: Bennett Collins

Ann Nesslage was our chair for this meeting. The meeting opened at 5:00

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the December 5, 2018 minutes.

Mary reported on her attendance at the December 6, 2018 Selectman meeting. She asked about ideas for organizing the funding and maintenance costs of the project. Mary plans to invite Hank and Wendy to the next Town Center Property Committee Meeting. The town plans to purchase and install a doggie waste bags dispenser and the bags at the lower parking area at the John Hay Conservation and Recreation Area. The company we suggested is "Zero Waste".

There followed a talk about a sign near or on the dispenser. An example might be:

'Clean Up After Your Pet- Protect the Water' suggested by Daniel. We plan to write the exact wording and give it to the town. Mary will relay this plan at the next Selectman meeting. We plan to look at the signage at Waldoboro Village River park. Mary reported that Susan Davis is compiling a list of town owned properties with the help of Jim Murphy. Information will include: boundaries, acreage, location, history of when it became a town property.

We next talked about our interest in conservation easements on town properties. The holder of the easement then has a legal obligation to make sure that violations are not happening. The easement creates a mechanism for caring for the properties.

Bennett noted that he would never support the town acquiring more conservation land without having a professional organizer. Christa noted that this work related to the stewarding of the properties brings our commission back to its essential core. We noted that Clam Island is being stewarded by local residents through the Friends of Clam Island.

Christa reported that there are tire tracks all over the Hay Conservation and Recreation Area field. There followed a talk about the need to prevent vehicles driving across the field. We noted that there was no formal site design work done in the development of the site. There is no place to turn around at the gravel extention. Mary Berger suggested the Camp Road Book published by the State of Maine could help. Did the town contact the DEP about the best way to build a road to prevent run off? It was noted that we should look for something positive to do now rather than rehashing criticisms from the past. Everyone (stakeholders) should be at the site together looking at the landscape at the same time. Christa will go to the next Selectman meeting. She

plans to ask: What is the Conservation Commissions role in the development of town conservation properties? Can we form a process?

Ann Nesslage said that currently the road at the Hay Conservation and Recreation Area is too rutted for some cars to drive down. One use of the road is to provide access for people who cannot walk down. Therefore it is very important that the road be in better shape. Mary Berger suggested waterbars to prevent erosion. The road needs to be maintained.

Bennett noted that the Hilton O'Connor trail is an example of a town property that has been developed well.

Terry proposed that we ask Susan Davis if she would like to become a voting member of the Conservation Commission. We all concurred. Christa will ask Susan. Currently we have five members and we can have seven. We currently have three associate members.

Christa said that Mark Biscoe will speak at the Bremen Library on Feb 7. Possibly Karl McLetchie will speak on March 28th.

Christa will chair our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15

Our next meeting is February 6, 2019 starting at 5:00 PM.

Thanks, Terry Marsh (minute recorder for the BCC)