

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Approved Minutes
Bremen Library
March 6, 2019

BCC Members Present: Terry Marsh, Ann Nesslage

BCC member Excused: Daniel Ungier Christa Thorpe, Mary Voskian

Selectman Liaison Present: Wendy Pieh

BCC Associate Members Present: Virginia Betts

BCC Associate Members Excused: Susan Davis, Mary Berger

Ann Nesslage opened the meeting at 5:32

For purposes of this meeting Virginia Betts is a voting member.

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the March 6, 2019 minutes.

Ann reported that she attended the recent select board meeting. The town is researching solar power to pay for electricity at the town office, the town house, and the fire station. We wondered if the library might also join with the town too.

Wendy said the town is exploring options. The fire station roof faces south and might be a place to install solar panels.

Ann said the budget meeting was good with support for the "essential town reserve" of the Land Conservation Fund. We are suggesting \$3,000.00 to add to the Fund, We are asking for \$1,150 for our operating budget for this coming year. Any funds in the operating budget left over from last year are not carried over.

Our funds now cover going to workshops or educational events .

In Mary Voskian's absence we were directed to her recent minutes of the Town Center Planning Committee and to her email to us all. Mary will attend a workshop on April 4 in Wiscasset given by the Maine State Bureau of Parks and Lands. It has to do with their Recreational Trail Program and a grant available. We are interested in applying for this grant due September 27, 2019. Joe Vitti will attend also.

The cost of the lumber for the bridge at the Hilton O'Connor Trail was paid for by the town, not out of our operations budget. The generosity of the town is appreciated, and it is a great gesture of support for the Conservation Commission's work.

In 2006, the Town of Bremen established a 5 member Conservation Commission.

Ann distributed a copy of the 02/02/06 Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting. The Conservation Commission Article was voted on at this meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to place the following article on the Annual Town Warrant: "To see if the Town will vote to establish a Conservation Commission as authorized and defined in Maine law at 30-A M.R.S.A., section 3261, for the purpose of conserving land and open space. The commissioners would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen."

The original state document begins:

*S3261 Unless otherwise provided under **their home rule authority** municipalities may establish conservation commissions as provided in this section.*

Wendy explained that because the language about home ruler, we are not exactly bound by the state definition of a conservation commission.

When it was developed, the Conservation Commission referred to the town's charge and to the states's description and developed a mission statement appropriate to Bremen. (Ann provide a copy of the state guidelines for this meeting.)

Our mission statement, created shortly after our commission was established is:

The mission of the Bremen Conservation commission is to work with town citizens, government agencies and natural resource organizations to conserve undeveloped land in Bremen that will maintain the rural character of the town, protect its water resources, preserve wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities.

The 2004 Bremen Comprehensive Plan played a major role in the 2008 Conservation Plan put forward by the Bremen Conservation Commission. We have used the 2006 mission statement to guide our work since that time and it has been posted on the town website.

Ann will attend the next select board meeting. She plans to share our mission statement and explain that we have been using that mission statement since our founding.

Our Trail Work events will be on Saturdays from 9-11 as follows: May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, Sept 28, Oct 26. We plan to meet at The Hilton O'Connor Trail on May 25. Christa will be asked to create a poster.

Christa will write our report for the Annual Town Meeting book. It should include information about the talks at the library that Christa suggested and helped with.

The town report is due SOON (within two weeks). Virginia will ask Christa to write it. Ann will email Christa also.

Ann will ask at the next select board meeting to change the number of members of the Conservation Commission from five members to seven members with two 'alternates'. This is a change from the term 'associate members'. The selectmen will need to approve all members and alternate members.

We next talked about the Weston Spring property. We plan to:

Visit the site as a group

Test the water in the well and at the shore

Obtain a copy of the deed

Establish where the actual borders are

decide if this is a viable place for public access?

If so, we would need to clear a path and mark it. A sign with some historical information is another suggestion.

Wendy thanked Ann for stepping up to be our chairperson. Terry and Virginia thanked her too!

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40

Our next meeting is May 1, 2019 starting at 5:30 PM.

Thanks, Terry Marsh (minute recorder for the BCC)