

Town of Bremen  
Conservation Commission Approved Minutes  
Bremen Library  
October 2, 2019

BCC Members Present: Ann Nesslage, chair; Terry Marsh, secretary; Susan Davis

BCC Member Absent: Daniel Ungier

Selectman Liaison Absent: Wendy Pieh

BCC Associate Members Absent: Mary Berger; Virginia Betts

Ann Nesslage opened the meeting at 5:07

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the September 4, 2019 minutes.

Ann reported that she will attend the next select board meeting on October 3, 2019. Ann reported on the previous select board meeting. Friends of Clam Island will bring updates of their stewardship to the Conservation Commission, and then the Conservation Commission will report to the town.

There is confusion about liability issues for volunteers helping with trail days. Ann will ask about this at the next select board meeting. The select board reviewed the new development on Webber pond. The select board is looking into the issue of wooden pallets along the shore near the Hay Conservation and Recreation Area. The Bremen Conservation Commission encourages that the pallets be removed. Hank will look into possibly relocating the picnic table that is currently in the walkway leading to the clearing and kiosk for the Hilton O'Connor trail. Susan suggested that a parking sign could be placed below the sign for the Town Forest and Walking Trail, as the clearing is a parking area at the trailhead. Ann will ask about this issue at the next select board meeting. The new doggie waste bags are being used at the Hay Conservation and Recreation Area. This is great for preventing pollution run off into the water.

Ann then reported that the water at the Weston spring was tested by the town. There is lots of coliform, and it is definitely not safe to drink. Ann told the select board that one idea could be to have a stone cairn, and a historical marker. The BCC recommends that whatever decision is made about the property, that the property be maintained as wild, with an addendum saying so in any deed of sale. Ann will report this viewpoint at the next select board meeting.

Susan talked to Juanita about helping with the displays at the two kiosks. We hope to have consistency. We ask what should the content be? How often should it be changed? One idea is highlighting the unique features of each area.

The town cannot access our website to update it. No one is currently managing it. Susan will ask Christa. Susan will then sit down with Melanie to help get all the designated outdoor open spaces in one place on the town website.

We next talked about the Hillside Trail. The existing logging road needs to be cleared of branches, and then maintained. At this time there is no signage, but it is listed as a place to walk on the town website. Susan suggested we need a sponsor, someone to take on the project of getting the Hillside Trail marked and cleared. Susan will ask James Boothby.

Hilton O'Connor Trail: Susan cleared the undergrowth with her battery powered weed wacker, which works very well. Steve and Jo Laurich and Terry walked both the orange and blue sections of the trail to identify wet areas and measure for possible bog bridges. Steve will provide a list of materials. The idea is to further identify the most wet areas next spring, and plan to install

the bog bridges next fall. They also identified an area that needs steps after the bridge as the bank is too steep and slippery. We are very grateful to Steve and Jo for all the help.

Ann made a dedicated email list for Friends of Hilton O'Connor Trail.

The checklist form for reporting to the town the status of the town properties should be submitted once a year. Christa was to have done the Hilton O'Connor trail. Terry will do the Hay Conservation and Recreation area. We hope to deliver the checklists to the town at the Nov 7 select board meeting.

Terry will talk to Kevin Redline about building suggestion boxes for the kiosks.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08

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

Terry Marsh, secretary