

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Draft Minutes
Video Conference Call
April 7, 2021

BCC Members Present: Ann Nesslage, chair; Mary Berger; Susan Davis; Walter Radloff
BCC Associate Members Present:
Selectman Liaison Present: Wendy Pieh

Visitors Present: Joan Ray, Mary Sue Weeks

The meeting was opened at 5:02 pm

Minutes were approved as amended

Mary Sue Weeks asked to speak about her concern with a missing plaque honoring her sister that has disappeared from the beginning of the Hilton O'Connor/ Town Forest Trail. She said there was another plaque having nothing to do with the trail behind the town house by the picnic table. She reviewed her sister's role and the importance of the attribution to her. Wendy Pieh assured her that the plaque will be replaced. Walter Radloff recalls finding a plaque broken off a post and bringing it to the town office about one year ago.

A discussion followed about better signage for parking for the trail and for marking the entrance to the trail from the parking area. Parking on the field in front of the trail was also discussed. It was agreed it is not an ideal place to park. Mary Berger said the field is sometimes used for overflow parking for town events at the fire station. Ann and Mary will clarify the use. If the field is not used for parking it should be left unmowed until late fall to allow natural habitat for flora and fauna,

Picnic table area: It was agreed it is not an ideal place to picnic. The area is not maintained nor attractive. Ownership will be determined and perhaps it can be moved to a better location.

Fire station hot spot: Will be developed for high speed internet use by town residents. Parking will be restricted to areas that will not be impacted by deployment of fire engines and other emergency vehicles in the event of emergencies and fires.

Ongoing projects

Town property list. The town properties are not clearly described on the town website. Susan has worked on this but all suggestions have not yet been implemented. Susan and Walter will finalize this with the goal of a June 1 deadline. Links to organizations such as Audobon who own properties in Bremen will be included in the property listing,

It is also suggested that the BCC website be updated. Susan will look into resources available to do this.

Coastal Rivers partnership for Bremen Forest Trail. Jim Grenier, the trails specialist at Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust is preparing a memo about his recommendations for the trail. Trail work will be delayed until the information is received in order to coordinate efforts.

Invasive species presentations. Susan is coordinating this effort. To date she has spoken with the current librarian about dates and procedures for planning and marketing the presentations. Thursday was suggested but there are conflicts with other town meetings on Thursdays unless they are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The new librarian will be able to help and will be orientated to the plan.

Dates for summer events planned by Mary Voskian need to be determined to avoid conflicts.

Dates are August 14, rain date 15. Tentative playground date, August 21. Involve trails this day?

Tree Harvesting in Bremen

The BOS requests input from BCC on tree harvesting on town owned land. Joan Ray provided the following information. Cutting for the health of a forest may not be accurate. Old forests store a lot of carbon that is lost or released when forests are cut. Flora and fauna do well in old growth especially birds. Forests are healthier if left undisturbed. The concern of cutting to control forest fires. Joan states that Maine forest fires are rare. Jack pine and Pitch pine need fire to regenerate? These trees grow along the shoreline in certain areas in Maine but are not prolific. While fires do help regenerate, the trees do regenerate albeit more slowly without fire. The BCC agrees that tree harvesting on town property is not appropriate.

BCC compliments the town of Bremen on delaying the cutting of fields until late fall to allow birds to fledge and beneficial insects to complete their life cycle.

Houseboats on Pemaquid Pond

Currently there are no boats but if there are the concern is the impact on the environment. Three towns are involved and would complicate any recommendations. If there are proper pump out facilities any contamination from waste would be mitigated. This issue will be monitored.

Other

A discussion of the allowed size of outboard motors on local lakes followed.

Tree growth status vs open space and agricultural use designations for tax purposes was discussed. More options now for conservation,

Meeting adjourned 6:08

Respectfully submitted

Susan Davis