Town of Bremen

Conservation Commission Draft Minutes

Video Conference Call

November 3, 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, Arnold Banner

The meeting was opened at 5:03 pm

Minutes,

October minutes were approved.

**BOS report**

**Weston Spring**.  Boe Marsh, indicated that the spring housing should be removed and the spring left to flow naturally.  BCC members strongly agree with this.

Tree issue.  Is the town responsible for the trees since abutters built so closely?  If the town is responsible, the town should monitor the condition of the trees on a regular basis as suggested by a forester.

Unauthorized cutting of brush/shrubs at water’s edge.  It is growing back but mostly poison ivy.

Monitoring of property: should abutters and others form Friends of the Spring?  Joan Ray suggests abutters may not be the wisest choice because of conflicts of interest.

Relationship with abutters. BCC would like the town to have a discussion with them to see what concerns they have about the property and the fact that a driveway is on town owned property.  Visitors? Issues?

**Trail work day Hilton O’Connor trail**

The October work day was very successful.  It was planned with Coastal Rivers.  Clearing of trails and work on invasives continued.  A new bog bridge was in place.  Several Bremen residents were involved.

Coastal Rivers is providing a new map and other tools for the kiosk

It was suggested a letter of thanks to CRT for their expertise and assistance with the trail.

Budget for the trail.  BCC will be in touch with Coastal Rivers for their forecast of needed materials.

**Maine Association of Conservation Commissions**

It was agreed that BCC should be a member. Cost $100/yr.  Once a member, BCC’s membership lapsed at some point

Of interest from the statewide MEACC conference that Susan D attended

Solar Farms

Springing up all over the state.  Can do significant damage to the land.  Many towns have declared a moratorium until they have time to research and put in place regulations. BCC should be involved in this and encourages the town to take steps to anticipate a solar farm request.  Sometimes have fines for not following guidelines set by town, Wendy Pieh suggests that homeowners can do what they want with their land.  Again, this is a very good reason to be ahead of situation.

Trail Camera

One way to develop interest in town trails.  Coastal Rivers is beginning to do this on their properties.  A Facebook page is very popular with their trails.  Visitors place wonderful photos of the trail.  BCC should consider putting this in the budget.  A camera with cell connection for automatic downloads is recommended.

**Monies in BCC land conservation fund**

Wendy suggests this can be used for other purposes than just buying land.  Set up to conserve special places in Bremen.   This would be helpful for BCC goals and projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund.  Oil and gas offshore spill fund can be used by municipalities.  BCC will look into this

**Open Space Plan**

Strategic approach for current and future uses of open spaces in a municipality.  Joan Ray suggest this would be helpful in preserving high value properties. Mary Berger says there is a document at the town office where Bremen residents listed their favorite places.  This will be pursued.

Joan Ray would like to discuss control of bittersweet on roads and private property in Bremen.  This will be an agenda item next month.

Adjourned 5:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by Susan Davis