

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Minutes
Video Conference Call
February 2, 2022

BCC Members Present: Ann Nesslage, chair; Walter Radloff; Susan Davis
BCC Associate Members Present:
Selectman Liaison Present:
Visitors Present: Joan Ray, Arnold Banner, Kerry Kohnert

The meeting was opened at 5:01 pm

Minutes

January minutes were approved as edited.

Letter of Thanks to Coastal Rivers

Joan Ray reports that the letter was extremely well received. Staff involved felt appreciated and recognized for their various areas of expertise. The director was pleased that the Bremen Conservation Commission extended the courtesy to Coastal Rivers of acknowledging their contribution to the town projects.

BOS report

BOS ok'd BCC decision to not change the wording of Article 44.

Jim Murphy help with defining certain town owned property did not elicit much response.

Signage of town properties will be ongoing discussion.

Bench at end of Storer Rd. Pretty neutral response. Walter and Joan will visit to make sure there is room for a bench without impeding vehicles.

Budget. Discussion of increasing Land Use Reserve Fund. BOS would be interested if we agree to actively pursue finding more land. Currently Coastal Rivers is planning a survey of important properties in Bremen. They wonder if the town would be likely to contribute to land conserved in Bremen by Coastal Rivers. It would not be owned by Bremen but would enhance the town. This is a hypothetical question at this time.

Solar Farms Since this is not a current issue for the town, there doesn't appear to be much interest in developing any regulations concerning solar. Neighboring towns are dealing with solar farm applications. Rockport is developing an AG solar farm that allows for growth of wild blueberries beneath the equipment. This project is an area of active research.

BCC recognizes the need to have the town aware and ahead of the solar farm issue.

Maintenance of town areas, trash, animal waste etc. Town will continue to be responsible.

Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC)

BCC is now an active member. Ann will distribute communications from MEACC to BCC members

Joan Ray mentions the Maine Land Trust Network conference which BCC members may participate in. \$25 for any or all of the conference via Zoom.

Mapping of Properties in town with Public Access

The cost of an outside company to do the map is prohibitive. Joan Ray has a map of Bremen and will work with Mary Sue Weeks to create the map that shows areas in Bremen the public has access to. Cost using this route is anticipated to be mostly printing

Budget

Work on the Hilton O'Conner trail (bog bridges etc) is estimated to be \$2,800 for materials. This could increase if costs continue to increase.

Printing of maps of properties with public access \$300

Land use reserve fund \$5,000 ?

Cost for signs to be determined.

Scheduling of Hilton O'Connor trail maintenance.

Discussion of whether trail days should be solely a Bremen project or with Coastal Rivers Trail Tamers. Terry Marsh will work with Coastal Rivers to decide the best days for a good turnout. Weekdays currently work the best. It was suggested that Terry report to BCC of the work she is doing as steward of the trail and with Coastal Rivers to bring best practices to Bremen

Weston Spring

Walter reports that he and Steve Page have demolished the wooden covering and removed it from the property. They found 2 levels of cinder blocks below and below that concrete sides reinforced with rebar. They removed the cinder blocks and recommend placing large boulders, rocks inside to cover the opening rather than removing concrete. There is a pipe running out of the concrete that carries water from the spring to the lake. BCC likes the idea of the rocks which Steve Page has on his property. He has also offered to bring them to the site. It was agreed that the capstone rock was a good place for signage that would describe the site etc. It could be a metal plaque bolted to the rock.

Thank you Walter and Steve for this work !!

Town Properties Project

Susan Davis reports that the properties available to the public are listed on the town website with links to websites that describe the areas in detail(when available) have been completed. Thanks to Cheryl at the town office for accomplishing this. The BCC section on the town website needs to be updated and Susan will continue to work with Cheryl on this. Once the map is completed, a more prominent place on the Bremen town website will be ideal.

Arnold Banner suggested the properties be put on google maps for handy digital and accurate access. He will do some research about the process to do this. This would be in addition to the paper map. Locations could also be put on other websites such as "All Trails".

Meeting adjourned 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susan Davis