

Town of Bremen
Conservation Commission Minutes

Video Conference Call March 1, 2023

BCC Members Present: Ann Nesslage, chair; Susan Davis, Kerry Kohnert, Mary Berger

BCC Associate Members Present:

Selectman Liaison Present: Wendy Pieh

Visitors Present: Naomi Martin, Joan Ray

Meeting opened: 5:06 pm

February minutes approved.

Coastal Rivers Meeting

Ann Nesslage met with Joan Ray and Brad Weigel to discuss ongoing projects.

Hillside Trail: They suggest building an alternative

BOS report.

Max Johnston, town planner mentions ability to apply Land Water Conservation Fund for improvement of the ball field and developing walking trails on this town owned land. There are restrictions including that the area be open to the general public. It would be a matching funds grant. The town will ask the town residents of their opinion on the proposed project.

Green crab project. Bremen will participate in a project to grow clam seedlings to a size that green crabs no longer devour. Green crabs are devastating clam seedlings and will effect the clam industry negatively. Brian Beals of Machias is leading the projects. Bremen one of several towns involved.

Warming station. The town needs to clarify and publicize the warming station availability.

Storm damage. Communication about fallen trees across roads and other damage that restricts residents ability to travel has been an issue when the town office is closed. BOS are clarifying the procedure which is to call 911 and they will contact the fire station. The fire station is responsible for clearing roads etc. CMP will be involved in cases of live wires. Residents will be notified on the town list server and by a note included in the spring tax bill.

Budget

The 2022-2023 budget is anticipated to have a substantial amount left over because of unanticipated support from Coastal Rivers. BCC suggest the amount be rolled over to the 2023-2024 budget because the Hillside Trail will be an expensive project. Materials and labor to build bog bridges and clear part of the trail of large fallen trees is anticipated to be costly. Estimates will be developed. Coastal Rivers may help with planning but they will not have the same commitment as Bremen has enjoyed with the Hilton O'Connor trail. That partnership has leveraged the BCC budget substantially. Since the parcel of approximately 50 acres has been donated to the town, BCC feels that the monies needed for improvements is modest compared to the value of land to residents.

Map of Trails in Bremen

Size of map discussed. It was agreed the 11X17" is best. Coastal Rivers is able to print in this size.

Property descriptions on the reverse side of the map were edited. This in no way impacts the artistic work of Mary Sue Weeks on the map. Susan Davis will circulate suggested changes for a final edit. The title of the map/brochure will be simplified and BCC statement will be updated.

Mary Sue Weeks will be acknowledged for her contribution and Coastal Rivers as well for printing the brochure.

Other

Sarah Gladu of Coastal Rivers has agreed to lead walking tours with Lincoln Academy students and will pursue the same with the Great Salt Bay School. This will help accomplish the goal of educational outreach for BCC.

Adjourned 6:10 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susan Davis