



August 19, 2024 - DRAFT

Georgia Conservation Commission Minutes

Call to Order: 6:38 pm

Attendance:

Present - Tom Hargy, Alysia Catalfamo, Jen Kale, Ken Minck, Suz Brown, Peter Mazurak
Absent – Noah Lavallee, Annette Villani, Fred Grimm

Minutes: June – Tom moved to approve; Jen seconded. Motion carried.

Financial as of 8/13/24:

CRF (account 9-1-00-00-01.08): \$127,398

General (account A-1-00-00-01.05): \$47,849

Line items (account 1-7-05-80-52.00): \$25,450

ARPA funds were added to line item balance. \$18K is missing from the reserve fund (includes the 5K approved during 2nd town meeting) – should be added at the end of the year. \$2K to be deducted from general fund due to cell tower overpayment.

Correspondence: None

Select Board minutes: None

On-going business:

1. Signs: One “no motor vehicles” sign left to post for Falls Trail.

2. Grants:

a. ACRPC Assessment grant for gully on 104A is complete/closed. Not eligible for Act 76 funding which is for non-regulatory projects. Plan to seek other sources of funding.

b. CCRPC Falls Trail Phase 1 archaeological study completed by UVM, they concluded the proposed work will have no effect on historic properties. There were some errors in the final report, waiting for those to be corrected – Jen to ask for updated copy. Final billing received. Final plans done by Watershed Consulting, estimated at \$52K. Next step is RFP for construction management.

3. Boardwalk at RGNA: Installation of hardware cloth is about 2/3 complete. Some cedar planks have been added to the softer sections of the long boardwalk and hardware cloth will be installed on those.

4. VLT: Invasives sign installed at SLW. Boot brush needs to be installed.

5. Deer Brook footbridge: Purchased cable. Received estimate from Rabbit Tracks to reset bridge and add cribbing. Suz moved to accept proposal and any overage up to \$3,000 total. Peter seconded, motion passed. Discussion around using chain to attach bridge to nearby

trees once it is reset and possible planting of willow whips or other plants for erosion/sediment control.

6. Sandy Birch development: Final DRB hearing was held and project is now underway.

7. SLW/RGNA kiosks: RGNA is worse off than SLW, plan to contact manufacturer and get new posts under warranty to have on hand as rot worsens.

8. Wildflower seeds: Plan to spread remaining seeds along edge of Trail 4 this fall.

10. SLW: Possible group shelterwood harvest in site #1 and Site #4. There is potential for good forest management, a landing for logs could possibly be sited near the old foundation. Charlie Hancock is now the state forester for Franklin County and can put the story map together for us. He has also offered to help present info regarding forest management at a community or Select Board meeting.

11. VELCO work on power lines at SLW: They are working to secure a permanent access deed-travel route. Improvement of the class 4 road will take place in the fall. Wooden poles will be replaced with metal around February 2025 and installation of new grounding wires to take place at this time as well. Mulching/seeding will take place in Spring 2025. All SLW trails will be closed during pole replacement. New meeting to take place with VELCO and VLT 8/27.

12. Phragmites at SLW: Tom cut down stand near power line in July. Will cut again in August if needed, we will want to repeat this next year.

13. Connector trail RGNA to Legal Trail 4: Ken & Tom made a 3'x60' path with landscape fabric and mulch from the RGNA parking lot to the footbridge in the ROW. Tom treated poison ivy on the connector trail and around the parking lot. For now there is no plan to continue to pursue constructing a trail on the connector beyond the mulch path.

14. Tracking trail usage at SLW and RGNA: Ken made and installed sign-in boxes. From 7/13-7/31 RGNA saw 43 people and 11 dogs. From 6/28-7/31 SLW saw 206 people and 77 dogs. Plan to report usage numbers once per year to Select Board as part of budget proposal.

New Business:

1. Forming subcommittees/list of volunteer projects that need to be completed: Alysia to solicit emails for a volunteer list on FPF and Facebook, discussion regarding planned trail maintenance/volunteer days where community members can sign up in advance for specific projects.

Items not on Agenda:

1. FNLC Tyler Place event: Commission to pay for members/spouses to attend.
2. GMCC: 4 Stipends have been awarded – still waiting for invoice.
3. Buckthorn pulling at SLW in the fall: Scheduled for 9/29/24 at 9:00 am.

Adjournment: 8:36 pm



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New Business:

1. Forming subcommittees/list of volunteer projects that need to be completed: Alysia to solicit emails for a volunteer list on FPF and Facebook, discussion regarding planned trail maintenance/volunteer days where community members can sign up in advance for specific projects. Based on the response from the Select Board, the decision was made to not hire from within the Commission or their family members for trail maintenance or other labor.

Items not on Agenda:

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