



September 16, 2024 - DRAFT

Georgia Conservation Commission Minutes

Call to Order: 6:37 pm

Attendance:

Present - Alysia Catalfamo, Jen Kale, Ken Minck, Annette Villani, Fred Grimm

Absent – Suz Brown, Peter Mazurak, Tom Hargy

Minutes: August – Jen moved to amend minutes to include the decision not to hire Commission members or their relatives. Annette seconded, motion carried. Annette moved to approve the minutes with the amendment, motion carried.

Financial as of 9/16/24:

CRF (account 9-1-00-00-01.08): \$127,435

General (account A-1-00-00-01.05): \$47,863

Line items (account 1-7-05-80-52.00): \$25,440

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: Noah Lavallee has found himself short on time this year and has decided to leave the Commission.

Select Board minutes: None

On-going business:

1. Signs: One “no motor vehicles” sign left to post for Falls Trail.
2. Grants: 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. RFP for construction management was sent to 4-5 vendors. 2 have looked at the property, another is scheduled to do so soon. Vendors have had questions regarding whether or not the land has been surveyed.
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. 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.

5. VLT: Boot brush has been installed.

6. Deer Brook footbridge: Purchased cable. Rabbit Tracks to reset bridge and add cribbing. May use chain to attach bridge to nearby trees once it is reset and possibly plant willow whips or other plants for erosion/sediment control.

7. Wildflower seeds: Plan to spread wildflower seeds along edge of Trail 4.

8. Volunteer Projects/Trail maintenance: The first volunteer day was held 9/7 and 5 sections of boardwalk and some stepping stones were installed over the muddiest sections of trail at SLW. – two members of the new email list joined! The list is continuing to grow and we will plan another of these volunteer days to install more sections of boardwalk.

9. 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. Will install new grounding wires and replace wooden poles with metal around February 2025, mulching/seeding will take place in Spring 2025. All SLW trails will be closed during pole replacement. Meeting held with VLT on 8/13 to discuss the VELCO work and met with VELCO on 8/27. Tom and Alysia informed the Select Board at the 9/11 meeting that VELCO will inform the Select Board when work is going to start. After the work is complete VELCO should be spreading topsoil and seeding – Alysia will check on this.

10. SLW/RGNA kiosks: New posts have been received for the kiosk at RGNA. VELCO will remove the SLW kiosk when improving the road and posts will be inspected at that time.

New Business:

1. New grant: Lake Champlain Basin Program. The Select Board has approved us applying for this grant under aquatic organism passage. Deadline to apply is 10/3/24.
2. Grants to look into: Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program 2025 grants
3. ARPA funds – must be obligated by 12/31/24 – Alysia to check with the Select Board regarding when and how to use ARPA funds. Some items discussed included a trail to and viewing platform for the beaver pond at SLW and possibly an informative sign at the town garage wetland restoration project.

Items not on Agenda:

1. Buckthorn pulling: Scheduled for 9/29 at 9 am – will advertise and send out to volunteer email list.
2. GMCC: 4 Stipends have been awarded – still waiting for invoice.

Adjournment: 8:12 pm



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