

Georgia Conservation Commission Meeting minutes November 18, 2024

Attendees: Ken, Alyssa, Suzanna, Tom, Fred, Peter, Jim Early

Absent: Annette and Jenn

Meeting called to order 6:32pm

Due to a lack of a copy of the Oct minutes, they were not reviewed and approved.

Tom has been working with town treasurer, but no update on the totals of our financials.

Joanne Harvey attended to discuss the after-school program that she runs at the school. She has plenty of funding for equipment through grants, but grants don't generally fund her a salary. That is what she is looking for. We had a discussion about her program and who she is working under. This is something she loves to do and the school allows her to do it at the school, but it is not a school program (since COVID). We discussed the logistics/legality of paying her... Joanne left the meeting.

Signs: Last "no motor vehicles" sign posted on Falls Trail.

CCRPC Falls Trail – work is now complete. CCRPC gave \$200 to the maple sugarers for repair of the lines that needed to be replaced.

Boardwalk at RGNA: Another roll of hardware cloth was installed, one more left to go. The sections of boardwalk that will be replaced have been flagged. Discussed replacing of the old boardwalk. Alyssa volunteered to get out and measure what was needed so Ken can make a purchase of lumber.

SLW: Exploring the construction of a new trail to and viewing platform at the beaver pond. GCC is looking at grant funding. Alyssa is completing forms for a trail grant preapproval. Met with Greg and he has sent a proposal for the new trail. It includes several bridges and elevated portions of trail. Discussed the idea that trapping may be increased with easy access. If beavers are all removed the trail and viewing platform would have less purpose. There was concern about building through a wetland area. Question of whether we could use a culvert in place of the largest bridge. Alyssa will check with tucker (VLT) about the trapping issue.

Buckthorn pulling: Is there time to schedule another date for pulling this fall? We decided to move this to 2025

Deer Brook footbridge: May plant willow whips or other plants for erosion/sediment control in the spring of 2025, for erosion control. Footbridge was cabled to nearby trees.

VELCO work on power lines at SLW: Improvement of the class 4 road are currently underway. GCC will examine the kiosk posts for rot while it is out of the ground. VELCO 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. Payment for ROW (who is getting the \$\$)?

Budget Discussion: Submitted budget request to Select Board.

Finding a new member. Jim Early can to check out a meeting, will think about joining.

Bidwell property purchase: Property shows on GIS as 2.8 acres, not 5.74. After discussion we do want to move forward with this purchase. Currently the lawyer is waiting to hear from the executor of the will. Alyssa will check with Select board about legal representation.

Purchases – purchased new dolly for carrying planks, and purchased new electric chain saw.

Boardwalk and viewing platform for wetland mitigation at town garage – can metal supports be used? Question regarding boulder placement – seems to be marking wetland rather than the buffer zone. Can we build a platform without a boardwalk? Suzanna provided email from state wetlands. Long discussion about what materials to use to prevent rot or premature failure of the posts.

Cigarette Butler at Georgia Park and Ride- Discussed whether it would make a difference and whether it might be misused. Most smokers appear to drop their butts out their car window.

Adjourned at 9:02pm