

Town of Pownal Conservation Commission(CC) Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 24, 2023
7:00 pm, Mallett Hall

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Matt Welsh. The following were in attendance: Dick Hogue, Kathy Elders, and Wellens King. Selectboard member Kate Day was also present.

Approval of minutes: The September minutes were approved by all, one spelling correction was made.

Public Comment: N/A

Pumpkinfest: The event was well attended, Dick noted that traffic was the only problem. Cones helped to slow traffic, but some people were crossing without paying attention to oncoming traffic. Kate suggested having foot traffic diverted to the 4 corners, or having a crossing guard appointed for the entirety of the event

Browntail: Discussion was held regarding what role the CC should take in helping with Browntail Moth management. The following suggestions were made about how funding could be used: education, tools for purchase, mitigation strategies, organize a day in spring 2024 to help citizens with mitigation. Matt and Dick each know someone who owns a lift - they will reach out to see what the cost would be to use for a day. Wellens suggested writing up a blurb for the Jan/Feb newsletter, including a contact if citizens are interested in helping or if they need assistance with mitigation.

Contract with Royal River Conservation Trust: Adam, our current liaison with RRCT, will be leaving RRCT to work for another conservation trust. Matt's understanding is that RRCT is planning to have a draft of the easement ready by March 1, 2024. Matt stated that he will reach out to Alan Stearns to see if we can move ahead with this sooner than that date. The final draft of the CC's outline has been sent to RRCT. The hope is to have a draft of the easement from RRCT by the end of 2023. Kate will reach out to the town Administrator to see what the timeline is for getting this ready to go to Town Meeting in June 2024. Matt noted that Dec 11, 18 are the dates for the public hearings in preparation for the special town meeting.

Real Estate Request: Matt outlined the request and emphasized that the CC should focus on our stance as far as preserving the town's rural character. Matt drafted a

response, and it was discussed, and approved by committee members present. Dick mentioned that the lot is used by multiple town residents for hunting. Dick also mentioned that it was his understanding that the land isn't zoned for a mobile home park, but after some research determined that this might not be the case. A copy of the Town of Pownal Town-Owned Property policy was reviewed- Wellens will send out to the group.

Town-Owned Property Surveys: Dick looked in the vault and only found surveys on the following lots: Map 2 Lots 30,32 (27 &28 are in progress), Map 9 Lot 43, Map 4 Lot 20. Matt asked if we could dedicate a drawer to Town-owned lots- Dick says the bottom drawer contains current maps.

Adjourn: Matt thanked all for attending and noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Nov 28 at 7:00 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wellens King.