1. Conservation Commission Meeting Materials

Documents:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION JULY MEETING NOTES.PDF
Conservation Commission- July Meeting Minutes

7/15/20

All members present- video conference is open to the public and link was sent to the town.

Next Meeting: August 12th @ 5pm on Google Meet. Link to meeting will be sent to Town.

Hodgin Pond:

- The Commission was alerted to an ongoing situation regarding Hodgin Pond in York. The HOA is appealing a waiver setback of the pond to the Appeals Board.
- Our commission gathered documents pertaining to the issue and wrote a letter informing the Appeals Board that we are supporting the HOA's appeal.
- The property owner wants to keep the waiver, which was previously granted by the town. This allowed the structure to be built closer to the pond.
- According to the Board of Appeals Ordinance, they are supposed to notify the CC at the very beginning of this process. We were not notified.
- The Maine DEP was called about this issue and spoke with the town and builder about addressing multiple issues on the site.
- The Conservation Commission believes that the pond is a key habitat for the surrounding ecosystem, and by waiving the required setback the condition of the pond could be degraded.
- The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection has a mandatory setback of 75' from any natural resource. This is called the Natural Resource Protection act: https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/
- There is some confusion over if the pond is natural or man made.
- At the latest Appeals Board meeting, the pond topic was not discussed.
- The next Board of Appeals Meeting is next Wednesday (7/22/20).

Open Space Ordinance 7.6:

- The Commission received word that the Planning Board will be reviewing our amendments in September at the earliest.

Town of York Beach Trash Policy:

- Members of the Commission have monitored the crowds and amounts of trash at the town beaches. It seems that trash littering the beach is a bit worse than usual from previous summers.
- Article in the York Weekly addressed trash issues/concerns over 4th of July weekend.
- We will continue our open discussion about this topic with Town Manager Steve Burns.

Lawns to Lobsters Program:

- The Lawns to Lobsters Program is an educational program created by local conservation commissions to increase public awareness about ecofriendly landscape practices.
- The York Conservation Commission endorsed the program years ago.
- The Town of York has accepted the program years ago as well.
- Lawns to Lobsters mission statement- “The mission of Lawns to Lobsters is to educate the public on environmentally sound lawn care practices in order to protect and improve water quality in York's rivers and ocean”. -https://www.yorkmaine.org/370/L2L
• The Lawns to Lobsters program has a website with helpful information: [http://lawns2lobsters.org/](http://lawns2lobsters.org/)
• From past experience and knowledge, similar programs are only successful when there is ongoing education.
• The Lawns to Lobsters has a Facebook page.
• Starting a monthly newspaper article based on environmentally friendly practices regarding landscaping is something the commission is going to look into.
• The commission is to review information pertaining to the program and set a plan in the upcoming months.

**Conservation Commission Charter:**

• The commission is to thoroughly review our charter draft and report back with any amendments/corrections for next meeting.
• Our charter should adhere closely to state document/guidelines as well as similar organizations within the town.
• We are to specify our duties in a clear manor that can be understood by everyone.
• We are to confirm that there should be open communication and collaboration between our commission and other town boards.
• To discuss limiting the number of members on the commission.
• Add in/confirm Robert’s Rules of Order as standard meeting procedures.
• Should we consolidate charter, but make a separate document specifically outlining all duties?
• We are to see what other organizations charters in town look like so we can gather ideas and be consistent with similar organizations in the town.