

York Conservation Commission – January 2023 Meeting 1/11/2023

Members in Attendance – Stephanie Byrne, Mary Dopart, Alan McDonald, Gerry Beekman, Andrew King, James Kences

Maine Conservation Lands Registry

Registration of town conservation easements/lands is continuing. The CC will request concurrence from the Select Board to register Lake Carolyn and Phillips Pond as conservation lands. A plan for required monitoring must be developed, and assistance from the York Land Trust will be requested.

Central storage for CC documents

The CC will explore possible locations for such public-accessible storage, at the town library or other town locations.

Lake Carolyn and Phillips Pond: invasives and protection

A contractor has toured the sites in order to develop a plan to tackle invasive species there. That plan, just received, will be discussed at the next meeting. The CC has developed the specifics of needed signage and parking barriers for Lake Carolyn, so town departments can proceed with efforts to protect the lake. Stephanie will forward the information to the (acting) town manager for action.

York Comprehensive Plan

The CC will work with the implementation team to identify those priorities relevant to its mission and discuss plans for implementation at future meetings. Necessary changes to town ordinances must be developed. Engaging the public in the implementation is important. The possibility of an annual town meeting should be considered.

Engagement with other conservation-oriented organizations

The CC discussed the desirability of engaging with other York county organizations with like interests, such as other conservation commissions and the several land trusts (York, Kittery, Great Works, Kennebunk). Information will be gathered on these. Members might attend/monitor Select Board and Planning Board meetings to ensure that we are aware of opportunities for input.

Health and Safety Pesticide Ordinance

Consideration of a possible town pesticide ordinance continues, though widespread support is lacking. Steph will contact the Harbor Board and, possibly, Parks and Recreation for input.

