

**TOWN OF KENNEBUNK
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING 2/27/23
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

On February 27, 2023 at 6:34 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

PRESENT: Grace Cain, Mark Gillis, Jen Lyons, Jennifer Shack, Sally Tabor

APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes for February 6 were approved.

OUTREACH

We planned for our “Pesticides in Your Yard” event for March 23.

- The press release language was agreed upon. Shack will get approval from Shiloh Schulte.
- We need to create a flyer. Cain will ask the person who created the flyer for the January event for the template. Lyons will create the template.
- Lyons will coordinate with the two speakers.
- Shack will find out what the speakers will need in order to hook up with the screens in rooms 300-301.
- Shack will ask the town if there are any leftover mugs from the volunteer event to give to our speakers as a thank you.
- Shack will ask if the town has pitchers and cups to provide water to attendees.
- Gillis will provide snacks.

Shack met with the chair of the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission about a possible collaboration on a native plant event in August. The event would be held during an annual book sale. We all agreed to collaborate on the event. Cain and Tabor volunteered to take part in joint planning meetings. We also agreed to join the Pollinator Pathway campaign the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission started.

SITE PLANS/ DEVELOPMENTS

There were no plans to review. Shack reported she asked the town planner to send her links to digital applications prior to Conservation Commission meetings so that we can review the plans more closely. The town planner agreed to do so when possible. To make in-meeting review of plans more methodical, Shack created a checklist for issues to consider. She will circulate the checklist for feedback.

THE MOORING VERNAL POOLS

We discussed if there was anything to do about the vernal pools. We decided to see if we could take part in the Big Night for frog migration from the pools, ensuring the frogs do not cross Route 1. Cain will look into it.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Tabor brought up the possibility of the Conservation Commission collaborating with other committees and efforts to forward the town’s goals of improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. We agreed we should pursue this. This fits with our role in implementing the Open Space Plan, which includes improving

recreational access throughout the town. Shack will ask Shiloh Schulte for advice on how we might be most helpful.

OTHER COMMITTEES/PROJECTS

Shack reported that she will be attending the Kennebunk River Watershed Steering Committee meeting in March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Betsy Smith, who oversees the Volunteer River Monitoring Program in Kennebunk and conducts water sampling at Gooch's Beach for the Maine Healthy Beaches program, asked if any Conservation Commission members would want to take on water sampling this year. Kerr had already volunteered to do VRMP sampling. Gillis volunteered to do this, as well. Tabor volunteered to do sampling at the beach.

Next meetings will be March 13, April 3, and April 24.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.