

**TOWN OF KENNEBUNK  
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING 10/16/23  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

On October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

**PRESENT:** Mark Kerr, Jennifer Lyons, Jennifer Shack, Sally Tabor

**APPROVE MINUTES**

The minutes for October 2, 2023 were approved.

**GIS MAPPING INITIATIVE**

We reviewed a draft of the GIS map and provided corrections, additions and comments on it. We plan to provide more feedback on the next draft.

**PESTICIDE OUTREACH**

Outreach Messages

- October: The message will be the same as last year. Shack will ask Tina Radel to post it on the town's social media, along with the video the New School students created.
- November: Shack will write about end of season yard cleanup to help winter wildlife.
- December: The message will be the one about alternatives to salt that we sent out last year.
- January: We will publicize the Beyond Birdseed event.
- February: Lyons will write about LD 649.

Library

Tabor spoke with Alison Atkins at the library about two possible projects: 1) creating a native plant garden on library grounds; and 2) creating displays in the library that coordinate with our monthly messages.

Atkins asked if the Commission would like to collaborate on a grant to pay for a garden area near the cemetery. We voted to pursue this. Atkins also offered to display books in January that are related to our Beyond Birdseed event and will let us use a display case in January as well.

**BEYOND BIRDSEED EVENT**

The paperwork submitted to the Parks and Recreations Department was incomplete. Shack will follow up.

**SITE PLANS/ DEVELOPMENTS**

We reviewed plans for a 22-home development at 29 York Street. The wetland involved is non-jurisdictional. We have the following recommendations:

- Native plants should be used in landscaping
- Pesticide application should be prohibited
- At least one EV charger should be included in the plan
- The wooded nature of the property should be left intact as much as possible

**BUDGET**

This was not discussed.

**OTHER COMMITTEES/PROJECTS**

The Branch Brook Consortium will be attending the Branch Brook Consortium this week. He will also be attending the final meeting of the Coastal Resilience Steering Committee.

Members of the Kennebunk River Watershed Management Project Steering Committee have started writing a grant proposal to obtain funds for DNA testing in the Kennebunk River watershed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Kerr spoke with Bryan Laverriere about whether the town has a policy regarding the clearing of invasive plants from town property. The town does not have a policy and Laverriere said that Public Services staff did not have the time to clear invasives. Kerr also spoke with Laverriere about creating a “no mow” area on town property. Laverriere is open to the idea and would like some time to determine where that might be.

We received a letter from a residents thanking us for our approach to the use and awareness of pesticides in Kennebunk.

Next meeting will be November 6, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.