

Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Conservation Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Bob Ruel, in the absence of Bruce Allen, who had let the CC know he would be arriving late due to work obligations.

Members present: Daphne Klein, Bob Ruel, Ken Jacques, Marilyn Priest, Bruce Allen (arrived at 7:25). Also present: George McCusker (Selectman representative).

The minutes of 11/6/14 were approved unanimously.

Kinsley Lot: Ken asked George to summarize the discussion about the Kinsley lot that took place at the last Selectmen's meeting. George said that the Selectmen would like the CC to take charge of the timber salvage operation that needs to be done in the lot to remove the trees, primarily pines, that blew over in one of the recent storms. After some discussion, it was decided that Bruce would contact the loggers in town to see who would be interested in doing the work. Once he determines who is interested, he will set up a date for a walk-through of the lot and ask anyone still interested to submit a proposal.

Kidder Trail: Bruce was contacted by email by the New London Conservation Commission to ask if the CC had any concerns about allowing mountain bikes to use the Kidder Trail, which is located in the Gile Forest. One concern voiced by CC members was that there are wet areas on the Kidder Trail that could be significantly disturbed by mountain bike use. Another concern was whether mountain bikes would continue on to other trails that aren't appropriate for mountain bikes and cause erosion in more fragile areas. Bruce will convey these concerns to the New London CC and ask if bridges would be constructed over wet areas on the Kidder Trail if mountain bikes are allowed to use that trail.

CC reappointments: Ken and Bruce are up for reappointments at the end of 2014. Bruce will email the town office that both of them are interested in continuing to serve on the CC.

Elections: The following slate of officers was proposed for 2015:

Chair: Bruce Allen

Vice Chair: Bob Ruel

Treasurer: Ken Jacques

Secretary: Daphne Klein

The proposed slate of officers was voted in unanimously.

Town website: The CC's understanding is that at this time only Bruce, who is the CC chair, has access to post items to the CC's page on the town's website. Bob will contact Tamara to ask if, as vice chair, he could also post to the site. The sense of the meeting was that we should be looking for maps, photos, documents, and links to other resources that would be of interest to people in town. CC members should pass these along to Bruce and Bob for consideration.

Other Business: George reported on some issues that have come before the Planning and Select Board meetings. See the minutes of these meetings for details.

Action Items:

- **Bruce will contact loggers in town to let them know about the proposed salvage operation for the Kinsley lot.**
- **Bruce will contact the New London CC to let them know the CC's concerns about mountain bike use on the Kidder Trail.**
- **Bruce will contact the town office re: CC reappointments.**
- **Bob will contact Tamara at the town office re: posting to the town website.**

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Klein
Secretary