

ROCKPORT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 8, 2015

PRESENT: Ted Skowronski, chairman; Ken McKinley, select board; Bob Kennedy, Kim Kimball, Fred Ribeck, Bruce Kapp, Jamie Francomano

The meeting was called to order at 4:48 pm. The minutes of the September 2 meeting were approved.

Kim Kimball was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the commission. Her email is kimballfarm@me.com

HOME SEWAR INSPECTIONS/HARBOR POLLUTION

The memorandum from Steve Beveridge dated Oct.8 was distributed and discussed. Video inspection of sewer pipes by Interstate Septic was completed on 4 homes. A cracked 2 foot section of clay tile pipe was found at one of the homes. It is anticipated that the town will repair this section. A minor problem, if a problem at all, was observed at a second home. All other homes were found to be O.K. It was noted that the sources of cotinine, a nicotine metabolite, and carbamazepine, an anticonvulsant, found in the harbor have yet to be determined.

The question was raised concerning additional steps that could be done to find the source of harbor pollution. Two possibilities were suggested; 1. Report back to the EPA describing what we have done so far without solving the problem and 2. Strongly encourage the town to undertake a feasibility study to determine the best possible course to take. Jamie will investigate possible grant options to defray the costs of a feasibility study.

WATER SAMPLING

Bob reviewed the water sampling that occurred this past summer in the harbor, streams and ponds. There were 5 harbor surveys, 4 stream surveys including longitudinal sampling along the Goose River up to its source at Hosmer Pond and one sample each at Lilly and Chickawaukie Ponds. He noted that greater investment in sampling during the winter and particularly in March, April and May should be made this coming year. Bob will inform the committee of the dates for winter and spring sampling.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES GRANT

Bob summarized certain parts of the new grant, funding for which was just recently awarded. Several components of the grant were reviewed. First, a Stakeholder group is to be established who will serve as an advisory committee and suggest ways for public outreach of grant results. The first stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m. at the town office. Second, GIS technology will be used in an attempt to give a quantitative assessment of critical areas in Rockport that are likely to export Non-Point Source pollutants to nearby waters. Third, it is anticipated that the results of the grant will provide a model for other coastal communities to adopt in order to assess water quality issues in their area. Finally, a web site dedicated to grant activities, outcomes and other conservation committee projects should be established and linked to the town web site. Ted agreed to sponsor the new web site.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Ted and Bruce will walk the easements on Tuesday, Dec. 9 and submit the necessary paperwork.

STORM DRAIN STENCILING

George Haselton's daughter has repainted the storm drain stencils.

NEW BUSINESS

The spring date for the public informational meeting on pesticide use should be determined during our November meeting. In addition, Ken suggested that the committee begin to establish a committee budget to be discussed in the next few meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12th at 4:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Kapp