

## Shiloh Pond Committee Meeting 8/31/21

4:04 meeting called to order

Present via phone: Andrew Gayle, Lynn Guttlinger

Present: Brent West, Robert Woodhouse, Kathy Houston, Norman Goff, Annie Twitchell

Missing: Bob Moore

### Governance

- Norman moved that we approve Kathy Houston as Chair  
Annie seconded  
All were in favor
- Stacey moved that we approve Annie Twitchell as our Secretary  
Rob seconded the motion  
All were in favor
- Brent's goal is to advise on how to take on a project and to support us when we bring forth projects to the Selectboard and/or public. He will be part of the board for one year and after that the town could hire him.

### Resource

- Brent also noted that Walt Kilbreth has an interest in this project and in particular redecking the bridge  
**UPDATE: Please see the following from an email sent from Walt:**  
"With regard to the entrance road, the gate and the bridge, I've offered my volunteer services to include my mini excavator and myself to help minimally repair the road, replace the bridge deck, install a culvert beyond the bridge and A.R.C. Enterprises, Inc. will donate a new gate at the bridge fabricated to the specs you provide. Most of this work can be completed in 2022 and 2023."

### Discussion of Management Plan

Initial questions of management plan:

- Norman has been speaking with a biologist and found that there is a wild brook trout population, 1 in 5. The biologist would like to talk to the group
- Brent believes that the breeding takes place on the north end of the pond
- Kathy asked what do we do with the roads that are created if logging is done in the future
- Norman asked if we need to have roads in case of fire. This is not necessary even though it is a town owned property. If there was a structure inviting use, then that would be different. The town also has a liability rider and our town insurance is not asking for roads.

- Rob noted that there is a stream that feeds Little Shiloh from the south. He wonders if the whole south west side should be protected from future forestry except for the area near the “parking area.” Brent pointed out that forestry can be done for monetary purposes, but can also be done to cultivate certain species. There are different types of forestry practices: for specific wildlife, for “shelter” trees, and trees can be cut by diameter or to promote the growth of specific types of trees.
- Rob asked for clarification of 1.c of the Memorandum of Understanding, “Provide for economic benefit for the Town through sustainable forest management.” This MNRCP wants to hear an approved management plan including which areas we are requesting for future forestry. We can designate areas for forestry, but that does not mean that we have to cut it at all.

We have to review the Management Plan every 5 years

#### Discussion of the cabins and overnight use:

We will remove the cabin near the road, but the cabin that is on the north side is in decent shape. As per our agreement with MNRCP there is no overnight use. This could be a day use only site. Rob suggested it be something that residents could sign out. The consensus of the group is that the cabin is in good to decent shape. Lynn pointed out that the propane tanks will need to be removed. She also raised the concern that the building will have to be maintained and not turn into a liability.

**UPDATE: Walt will contact the owners of the cabin on the north side of the pond to find out if they would like to remove the cabin**

Norman thinks we need an enclosed structure.

Lynn wants us to be politically correct to the town and to the MNRCP and is concerned that if we make too many widespread changes it will reflect badly on us.

MNRCP’s guidelines: camping is generally not allowed

Brent proposed that we reserve the right to construct a day use structure with a footprint no longer than the “Chateau du Lac”

Annie likes the idea of camping but not widespread. She suggests we allow camping by special permission such as for the Mt.Abram Outdoor Adventure Club, or the Girl Scouts.

Andrew agrees with Annie that camping only be permitted by special permission granted by the town.

Lynn asks if we have to comply with ADA requirements if we permit camping..

Brent said that we do not have to have an ADA accessibility

#### Invasive Species

Coltsfoot is highly invasive, but Brent recommends not spraying because it would flow into the water.

Annie asked what damage it will do if we leave it as is, and Brent said that it will probably just continue to be as it is, unless we dig up the earth, in which case it will spread. Brent pointed out that when forestry is done, we need to be aware of other invasive species that thrive in cuts.

Maine Natural Areas Program can come in and advise us.

### Hunting Use

Brent suggested we offer a day in November that the land is open to hunters only.

Commercial use is generally not permitted.

Kathy asked about baiting and trapping. Rob would like to see that avoided. Annie pointed out that you need landowner permission to trap and bait. We will advise the town to not allow this.

### Other

Some discussion was had about the gate, but this was tabled for a future meeting.

Parking location was also discussed but was tabled for future meeting.

### Funding:

The rest of the management plan was discussed with few corrections or discussion. The funding chart which shows our upfront costs of \$1000. We expect the town will cover the upfront costs.

UPDATE: Walt reminds us that the town was told that it would not cost them anything up front. Although that was stated in relation to the purchase of the property, he recommends we not request funding from the town. (See email.)

Kathy is going to ask Leanna to set up an account for the Shiloh Pond Committee.

When our management plan is approved we will receive \$10,000. HPA will hold \$30,000 for us to use for improvements to the property, signage, Brent's wage. We could use that money as a match source for a future grant.

Norman asked how the funding and payment works. If donations are made, the person donating money would make the check payable to the town and ask that it be restricted to the Shiloh Pond Committee. Kathy asked if Leanna would set up a fund. Brent said he thought there would be a line item on Quickbooks. Lynn suggests that we ask for a separate fund to be set up for the project.

We can also make purchases using funds directly from High Peaks Alliance.

Brent is going to follow up on gray areas with camping etc and send a copy of the Management Plan to Stacey and Annie. Stacey and Annie will work on the edits together and return it to Brent by the end of the week.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm

