

TOWN OF EDGECOMB  
Minutes for Schmid Preserve Advisory Board Meeting  
February 17, 2021, 7 p.m. via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chair Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Members present were Andy Abello, Laura Lubelczyk, Lisa McSwain, David Nutt and Rebecca Schaffner and Selectman Mike Smith.

2. Chairperson's Report - Lisa McSwain

- a. Review of minutes of January 2021. Mike Smith moved to approve the minutes. Vote 6-0-0.
- b. Next meeting March 17, 2021

3. Selectman's Report

Mike Smith said a purchase and sale agreement for the 33.7 acres of the Lallis property had been signed, a deposit had been made and the property will be surveyed. He expected a sale by March. He announced that papers are available if anyone wants to run for office.

4. Land Acquisition, Boundaries and Roads

- a. Winter Plowing: Andy has plowed the Bob Brown parking lot. Joe McSwain plowed McKay and Old County Rd. lots. Lisa asked board members to keep track of volunteer hours including meetings. Laura Lubelczyk will help with a spread sheet to record different categories of work performed.
- b. Acquisition of Abbott property: Lisa McSwain has not contacted Alice Abbott; she is waiting for information from the attorney regarding costs which Ms. Abbott might have to incur. She had contacted a surveyor who said if the attorney will accept a deed description, the cost would be a couple of hundred dollars; however, if a full survey is required, the cost could be \$5,000. Mike Smith reviewed the history of the construction of the tennis courts for which the Town received a \$5,600 grant and which were subsequently sold. The Department of Agriculture is now requiring a replacement plan for the tennis courts or the Town will not be eligible for future grants. A Class A audit is required to determine the cost of the tennis courts when acquired and of the replacement. Smith asked if the Abbott property would be sufficient to satisfy the grant requirement. McSwain has been waiting for answers before contacting Mrs. Abbott.

5. Trails

- a. General trail winter maintenance: Joe and Lisa McSwain have been working on the trails and Rick Nelson has been working on the Middle Road side. McSwain said the trails are in good condition and have received lots of use.

6. Other Business

a. Discussion of 2021 priorities: McSwain had sent a list of priorities to the board which included trail improvement, land acquisition, checking boundaries, etc. David Nutt suggested having sign-in sheets at the major entrances to keep track of how much and for what activities the preserve was being used. The information would be useful for grant applications. McSwain said Bill Pearson, reporter for the Boothbay Register, had contacted her about an article on the preserve and she had asked him to delay until more information was available about possible land acquisition, endowment, etc. David Nutt said the preserve could be an economic driver for the peninsula and needs to be on the map of things to do.

b. Management Plan Update/Grants: McSwain said it will cost \$7,200 to update the management plan including the Hazelton property which had been added since the original plan. A grant for \$3600 would cover half the cost, the Preserve has \$2,000 and \$1600 from the town legal account would cover the balance. McSwain is working on obtaining letters of support from the selectboard, Fire Chief Roy Potter, forest ranger and others. The application is due March 12. She will send a draft of the grant application to the board and to Barrie Brusila, owner of Midcoast Forestry, who had suggested the grant. She said the board will need to have input in the new plan.

c. Becky Schaffner said there had been no progress on the mapping. When ready, the maps will be printed at the Copy Shop with funds from the budget.

d. Invasive Species Inventory and Management: Schaffner volunteered to do some mapping of invasive species. Lubelczyk said it might be possible to use USM environmental students who are required to perform 120 unpaid hours of work. Mike Smith will check on the Town's liability if students were used. A request for the student volunteers for the spring semester will be sent out.

7. Public Input and Comment – none

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.