

Town of Edgecomb  
Minutes for Schmid Preserve Advisor Board Meeting  
May 19, 2021, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Laura Lubelczyk, Chair Lisa McSwain, David Nutt, Rebecca Schaffner and Selectman Mike Smith

1. Call to Order

Chair Lisa McSwain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Chairperson's Report

- a. Review of Minutes of April 2021: The minutes were accepted as written.
- b. Next Meeting: The June meeting will be held at Lisa McSwain's house and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

3. Selectman's Report

Mike Smith said that the check received for the sale of the Lallis property has been deposited. The town attorney is working on obtaining a conservation easement for the trail.

4. Land Acquisition, Boundaries, Roads

- a. Acquisition of Abbott Property: Lisa McSwain said she had not heard from the attorney in Philadelphia and would email Mrs. Abbott.

5. Trails

- a. April 25<sup>th</sup> workday review and additional trail updates/discussion: Lisa McSwain said the workday, held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, was great; 16 people had helped, and she thanked all for their work. It was suggested that regular workdays be scheduled in the spring and fall. The hours of all participants were entered in the volunteer spreadsheet.

David Nutt said that the Coastal Rivers and Land Trust was holding money left over from the land for Maine's Future River-link trail in the amount of approximately \$2000 and was available for bog bridging for the River~Link trail between McKay Road kiosk headed towards the Schmid Preserve as well as construction of a new bridge over the stream headed towards the Zak Preserve. The bog bridging section would be BRLT's responsibility as it is on the Church property and that Nick Ullo had a full-time land person available to implement the work with some help from us. The other bridge would be our responsibility.

5. Trails

- a. April 25<sup>th</sup> work-day review and additional trail updates/discussion:

6. Mapping – Becky's Report

Becky Schaffner reported that she is still refining the map and will print a draft next week. Lisa McSwain said the preserve had \$931 remaining in the budget, and if the maps could be printed in order to get the bill into the office before June 28th those funds could be used. It was decided that the large maps for the kiosk would be colored and three copies would be ordered from Copy Shop. Copy Shop will be contacted about the cost of the small maps also being colored. It was suggested that if funds remain in the Schmid account, they could be spent on gravel.

David Nutt asked about the design for the 8-foot bridge and if River Link funds could be used for the bridge.

## 7. Other Business

a. Management Plan/Grant/Invasive Species discussion: Barrie Brusila intern assistant is taking courses on controlling invasive species and the preserve could apply for funds from the grant to reimburse for half the cost for removal. She is a qualified invasive plan writer and Lisa will email her for a cost estimate to do the plan.

The following information was received via email from Rick Nelson who was unable to be present:

*\$1.4m allocated for Maine trail projects for 2022*

*Applications will be available soon and are due by end of September*

*There is typically a 70% success rate for funding for projects under 50k IF the application is submitted correctly*

*Awards are based on a point system. Generally, you get funding if the project checks enough boxes.*

*Most projects require a 20% local match but this can come from volunteer hours (at a rate of \$25.56/hr) material donations etc.*

*There is no up-front money, it is all done with reimbursements.*

*We would need to hire a professional trail designer after being awarded the grant.*

*Any bridges would need to be engineered.*

*This seems like a money source we should tap into if we have a good project idea. It is federal money, so there are hoops to jump through. However, I have a good friend who was on the RTP evaluation board for three years who has offered to review our application and make suggestions to give us the best chance possible.*

*Also, I spoke with my friend who is a director at Camp Kieve and they want to do another trail work day or two at the Schmid this summer. They love to do stuff like clear for new trails and build bridges. If we have any future projects planned, we should take advantage of the opportunity. Kieve paid for two bridges and the field crossing for the new climbing trail from the Middle Road lot two summers ago. I'm not sure if they will have material money this year, but I wouldn't be surprised if they could build us a bridge or two if needed. Their best work window is currently looking to be June 22-26.*

There was a consensus that the board had a lot on its plate and no time for grant writing. In addition, it was recommended that the management plan come first before construction of new trails, particularly since the Abbott property will need trails.

c. Volunteer Hours: The reimbursement rate for volunteer hours is \$25.32/hr. Keeping track of volunteer hours will be necessary for future grants. Sign-in sheets for volunteer hours will be designed and placed at the kiosks.

d. Newspaper Article: Lisa reported that Bill Pearson had contacted her about an article on the Schmid Preserve grant and updating the management plan. David Nutt offered to assist with the interview.

#### 8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.