

Town of Pittston River Walk Committee, Meeting Minutes 3/11/23. (Draft)

5:00 – 630 pm Town office

Residents present: Jane Hubert, Jean Ambrose, Jim Lothridge, Todd Lindstrom, Mike Salonen, Tony Garvan, Wayne Peaslee, Cheryl Peaslee, Sarah Hubert, Steven Costello, Ansel Bryant, Andy Shultz, Deborah Drew, Mark Kramer.

Zoom; N/A

1. Comprehensive Land Development discussion with Andy Schultz, A Forestry.  
Andy presented his report “Preliminary Assessment of timber value and operability for Town of Pittston”. (See attached report).  
Highlights include:
  - a. River Walk lot(s) have minimal wood harvest potential. Andy recommends this area be considered more of an engineering project vice wood harvesting project with a focus on selective marking and cutting of trees and clearing brush for walking trails, parking area etc.
  - b. The sand shed lot can be identified as a timber management area with potential for a conservative value of \$500/ acre profit.
  - c. Andy was unable to locate the north boundary monuments for the River Walk lot.  
Action item: Schedule a walk through with abutters. Ansel Bryant also has knowledge of the area which would be very helpful.
  - d. Land development discussion: The group discussed accessibility and proper design of walking trails as an important feature of the River Walk Property. Action item: Sarah Hubert to contact the following to gain insight and recommendations for trail design and safety considerations; State of Maine Parks and Land Management, Kennebec Land Trust, Mid Coast Conservancy Land Maine, et al.
  - e. Andy made himself available for future support for logger selection and coordination of work and logistics between the River Walk and Sand Shed properties. Andy to be contacted for any future work, at a later date.
2. Review and approve minutes of February 14.  
Minutes were approved with one correction (item 6).
3. Discuss plans to remove scrap metal: Discussion involved what needs to be removed for safety and esthetics of the land. A spring walk through was discussed.  
Action item: Jim Lothridge and Wayne Peaslee to contact some businesses that may be interested in removing scrap metal and also look into removal of tires and debris.
4. Results of meeting date survey: Action Item: Woody to report on survey results.
5. Next meeting date: Action item: Jean to schedule next meeting.
6. Other/New items: none

2/14/23 Meeting Action items / status:

1. Meeting day and time discussion. Action item; Woody to update town survey to include Saturdays. Accomplished/closed 2/14/23.

2. Email list for communication discussion: Personal emails were given to Woody for communication. Action item; Woody to send test email to all. Accomplished / closed 2/14/23.
3. Town Letters to property abutters Maps for River Walk property boundaries discussion: Action items; Jean Ambrose to review Digital maps from Forester. Todd Linstrom to plot google earth maps. Map R4 Lots 22, 15 & 16. Accomplished/ Closed 3/11/23.
4. Dineen and Winfield discussion: Jean noted that abutters have been notified and that the boundary monuments are in place. Follow up for committee to locate monuments when snow and ice have melted; Spring 2023. Open
5. Soil testing discussion: Due to past unorganized dumping of various materials on the River Walk property there was discussion and proposal for an environmental site evaluation which may include soil and ground water testing in certain areas. More discussion is needed to determine who would do the testing. Open 3/11/23.
6. Bodge Sand Island clean up discussion: Jane Hubert noted that her field trip revealed a lot of trash on the island. Action item; Committee to organize a another field trip and possibly a volunteer clean up in the spring of 2023. Open 3/11/23.
7. River Walk scrap metal and trash clean up discussion: Jim Lothridge met with Clark's Scrap Metal co. last week. There was concern for the cost of scrap removal vs the value of the scrap metal. Also discussed was the logistics and cost of cutting the scrap into manageable pieces for removal and hauling. Possible volunteer participation. Action item; Jim Lothridge to look into other scrap metal companies for estimates. Working/Open 3/11/23.
8. Stone dust pile discussion: Stone dust mixed with gravel may be able to be used for road surface and or walking trails. More discussion needed. Open 3/11/23.
9. ATV use discussion: Most were in favor of limiting or prohibiting ATV use on the Riverwalk due to potential damage to roads and walking trails. More discussion is needed after property development has been initiated. Open 3/11/23.
10. Forester / Wood Harvest discussion: Action item: Jean Ambrose to schedule a meeting with Andy Shultz to review his preliminary progress / recommendations for the wood harvest plan for sand shed property and the River Walk property. The two properties should be estimated separately for accounting purposes. Scheduling the actual harvest may be combined for logistics and harvester preference. Proposed meeting dates; 3/11/2023 5 pm and 3/25/2023 5pm depending on Mr. Shultz availability. Accomplished /closed 3/11/23.
11. Comprehensive Land Development Plan discussion: A plan is needed to develop a scope of work for cost and future development. First steps to be scrap removal and environmental assessment. Action item: Committee to develop C.L.D. plan in the near future. Working / open 3/11/23
12. Posting of River Walk Committee Meeting Notices: Jane Hubert noted that River Walk meeting schedules need to be posted in three locations in Pittston. Action item: Jane to review with Town Clerk. Open 3/11/23????
13. Meeting Minutes Discussion: Mike Salonen to forward draft of meeting minutes to Jean Ambrose for review / comments and posting on the town web site under River Walk Committee once complete. Accomplished / Closed 3/11/23.