

Kennebunk Pond Committee

Minutes: August 31, 2023, Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kane, Chairperson, Lynda Carscallen, Secretary, Bridget Grenier, Priscilla Ouelette, Dave Alves, Amber Swett-Select Board Rep.

The meeting convened at the home of Karen Kane at 5:00 p.m.

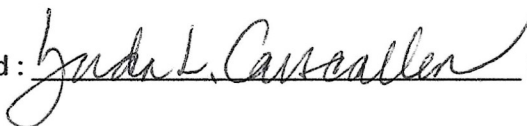
- We reviewed recent information that our meetings were to be formalized and, in the future, advertised in advance so that the public might attend. With this increase in formality, the Committee agreed that we should appoint a chairperson and a secretary, named in the above listing of those present.
- The Committee then moved on to discuss a recent “rumor” that a Pond Committee member had reported, in conversation with a Selectperson, discomfort regarding a parking lot gate option under the Pond Committee’s consideration, and likely to be put forth for a Select Board decision. The rumored Committee member reportedly expressed having felt “pressured by Committee members” in agreeing with this option.

All committee members indicated that they had not experienced any such pressure, and that each had equal opportunity to express their concerns, debate and disagree without group pressure.

The Committee questioned how to best address this misrepresentation. It was decided that the Committee members would write a letter to the Board stating that all Committee members agree they have not experienced pressure regarding the scope of the Committee’s work, and in particular, regarding decisions about gate options. It was agreed that the Secretary would craft this letter to be signed by all Committee members after their review. Once finalized, this letter will be delivered to the Board for clarity.

- The Committee clarified that we are a “working committee” and report to the Board. We are not a “decision-making committee”. Final decisions are made by the Select Board.
- Dave A. reminded the Committee that money for improvement has already been allocated.
- We discussed the bid process for a gate, in particular the process for developing an RFP, how to determine the items for that RFP, and how a bid is awarded. The town reserves the right to not accept any bid.
- Gate questions were put forth regarding whether a particular gate could be set off by an outside force such as a tremor or a jump as had been experienced by one member. This would need to be considered as gate option RFPs were developed.
- We agreed that we would consolidate information we already have for inclusion in the RFP and identify any questions we need to resolve. We will seek information pertaining to a basic in/out gate, dawn to dusk, which may be programmed to accept passes or an entrance fee, should the Town decide to follow that path in the future.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Signed :



Lynda Carscallen, Secretary