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Conservation Commission Minutes
Date: January 12, 2022
Zoom Meeting Hosted by Pennie Alley, Library Director

Conservation Commission Members Present: Catherine Bendheim, Linda Garat, Theo Pratt, Eileen Skarka, Henry Spencer, Sondra Wallace.

Others Present: Wes Pratt (First Associate)

1. Call to Order by Chair Theo Pratt at 5:00PM.
2. Due to the imperative of submitting the Commission's (first) annual budget by January 31, Sondra Wallace made the motion, with Henry Spencer seconding it, that the items originally listed on tonight's Agenda be tabled until the meeting on February 9. The motion passed 6 in favor, 0 against. This budget goes into effect on July 1, 2022.
3. Per Theo, she obtained from Terri Baines samples with four simple categories, and Sondra suggested that we get budgetary information from Annette Naegel of the Georges River Land Trust, particularly vis-à-vis speaker fees. After substantial discussion, a preliminary budget figure of \$815 was arrived at, as follows:

Contract Services: \$50. Regarding A/V equipment, we need to be shown how to use it, and does the town's equipment need any upgrading? Sondra said this could be a shared expense with other groups. This category encompasses the \$50 fee for "Gus," and our official email address conservationcommission@souththomaston.me

Dues, Fees & Travel: \$100. Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annually.

Insurance: \$20. Theo will speak with Terri about this line item. Might our activities involving volunteers be covered by a policy already in effect for the town?

Meeting expenses: \$100 (e.g., posters).

Programming & Education: \$250 (includes speaker fees, map costs). Re: maps, Catherine Bendheim stated that it would be great to create a downloadable map for the public of the town's trails, and that Andrew Stancioff would be an excellent speaker on maps and trails. The physical lamination of two very large maps would likely cost \$100. Theo asked about outreach for students. What are the costs involved? She also proposed seeking sponsors (e.g., local businesses) for our events and for fundraisers.

Roadside Cleanups (2): \$100 (supplies).

Space Rental Fees: \$100. Sondra said that if we want to attract sizeable audiences for our educational efforts, we will need more ample space than the town's community room.

Training: \$95. Eileen Skarka mentioned that the Planning Board routinely avails itself of training, and Catherine cited training in grant writing.

Theo will generate a draft of the above within 24 hours and ask Terri if this is a reasonable budget.

4. Other. Theo will send the entire group a publication by the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. It's a road map as to how we can be effective.
 - b. Further to the two parcels of land on Chapel Street and the draft memo that Sondra circulated on January 11 for review and/or revisions, Theo motioned to send it to the Select Board, Catherine seconded it, and the motion passed 6-0. Sondra will review it one more time then submit. Catherine added that we should develop a proposal for procedures to receive conservation land donations. The proposal will need to be submitted to the Planning Board for review and, eventually, to Town Meeting for approval.
5. Adjourn. At 6:36PM Henry made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Catherine, and passed 6-0.