

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: March 4, 2021

(\*\* = town manager; \* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; <sup>(T)</sup> = trails SC; <sup>(F)</sup> = forest SC)  
Bill Shane\*\*, Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; George Turner + (abs); Allison Foster+

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell	Sam York	<sup>(F)</sup> Ted Chadbourne	<sup>(T)</sup> Shaun Breton
Jenn Grasso (abs)	David Young	<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott	<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald
Matt Grondin		<sup>(F)</sup> *Denny Gallaudet ✓	<sup>(T)</sup> *John Jensenius ✓
Ellen Hoffman		<sup>(F)</sup> John Leavitt	<sup>(T)</sup> Matthew Leclair
John Jensenius <sup>vice*</sup>		<sup>(F)</sup> Gordon Lichter	<sup>(T)</sup> Brian Stearns ✓
Riva Krut		<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam	<sup>(T)</sup> John Stewart
*Mike Schwindt		<sup>(F)</sup> Sally Stockwell	<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell

Climate Action Subcommittee:

Sukie Curtis, Jennifer Grasso, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Ivy Frignoca, Mark Segrist

**Note:** Only members of the Commission and voting members of the subcommittees need attend. “✓” indicates subcommittee member attended Commission meeting.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting March 3, 2021

- February minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Also in attendance: Brenda Pierce; John Pentecost – bicycle enthusiast; Chris Cabot – Executive Director, CCLT; and Kristine Rabasca – President Integrated Environmental Engineering, Inc.
- Town Council (Allison) – No update
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report (summarized from Bill L’s notes):
    - During the month of February 2021, 19 new building permits were issued for a variety of structures such as: pools, sheds, decks, renovations, additions, and solar installations.
    - OceanView Phase I (Tuttle Rd) under construction; 23 permits have been issued.
    - Christmas Creek – under construction; 14 building permits issued. County records indicate all lots have been sold and closed.
    - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – five building permits issued.
    - OceanView Phase 2 (Greely Rd) – 52 new lots and a community building approved with conditions.

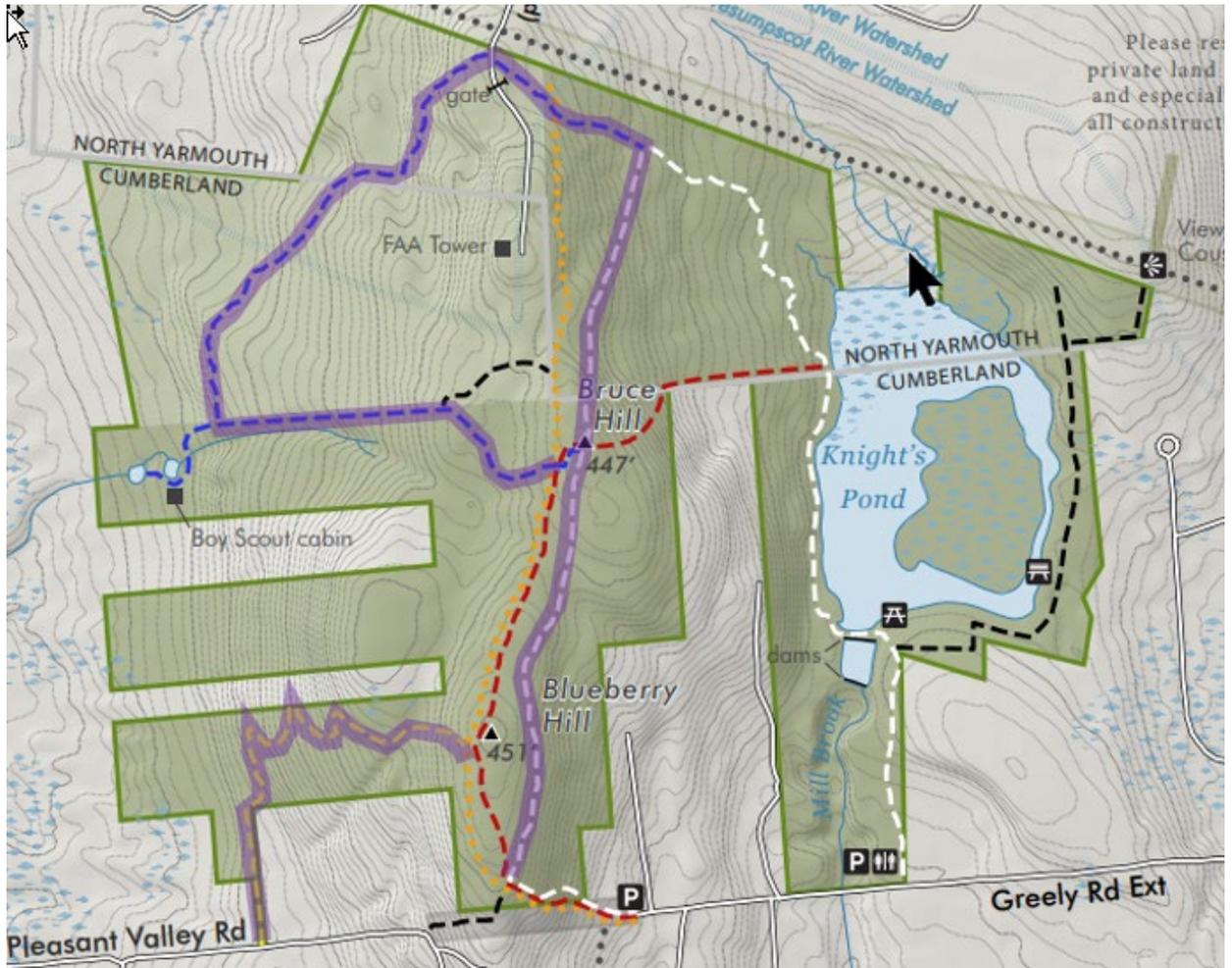


## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 16th 2021:
  - Workshop for three lot subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext. (tabled in Feb.)
  - Workshop for 13 lot subdivision of Blanchard Road Ext.
  - Four new 1-bedroom multiplex units at Rt. 100 (near Old Gray Road) after the Town Council approve zone change from VCC to VOC at the Emerald Green complex which was a 2 – 3 unit buildings.
  
- Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
  - Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) Phase #3 proposed 16,000 sq. ft. office building, 4,000 sq. ft. retail and 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant (Casco Systems facility)
  - Multiplex units off Route One near 295 in OCS with overlay per section 315-28.3 of Zoning Ordinance.
  
- Farwell Ave – An informal email vote was taken of the voting members prior to the Town Council’s vote to accept the Farwell Avenue trail easement. That vote was unanimous 9-0. Need to ratify the vote. John made motion to ratify the informal vote for the Town Council to approve the acceptance of the trail easement. This vote was also unanimous. John mentioned that work needs to be done in the spring to harden the trail (and remove planks).
  
- SnowDog groomer – John Pentecost gave a PowerPoint presentation on the abilities of the SnowDog. He and others are willing to donate their time and equipment to groom some of Cumberland’s trails, specifically Knight’s Pond. The SnowDog creates a 24” packed and corduroy surface. Grooming usually happens in the evening when the snow is harder. Proposed grooming several trails on Knight’s Pond on a trial basis. Denny expressed concerns that this was an individual and not an organized group similar to the snowmobile club; what is the larger picture with grooming trails in town. John made motion to recommend to the Cumberland/ North Yarmouth Joint Standing Committee, who have regulatory authority of the trails at Knight’s Pond, that John Pentecost be allowed to groom the trails highlighted in purple on the map (below) next winter on a trial basis. Matt seconded. All but Denny approved the motion. LCC members should monitor these trails next winter to decide whether to recommend that the grooming continue, end, or be allowed to expand onto other trails. It was noted that the LCC can only make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Stormwater - Kristine Rabasca from Integrated Environmental Engineering did a PowerPoint presentation on the progress and process of developing plans for the 2022 General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. She explained how with all the new development there is an increase of impervious surfaces which leads to an increase of pollutants into stormwater. The biggest concern is along coastal and densely populated centers. This is a 5 year management plan. Need to educate residents about pet waste, and need to determine best locations for pet waste bags and trash cans, and educate residents on stable yard landscaping practices to keep fertilize runoff out of streams and rivers (non-point source pollution). Also ordinance changes to strengthen sediment and erosion control - more teeth for enforcement.
- Public Information – Cutting of buckthorn and previously Phragmites in the Town Forest continues. Mike questioned how we can do a better job of letting the public know what is going on. No real discussion took place.
- Insurance – Mike mentioned that we (Commission and subcommittee members) are covered by the Town's insurance plan when we are working on the Town's behalf. If individuals have questions on coverage, they are to contact the Town Manager/insurance agent for answers.





# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

## Ross Estates - Conservation

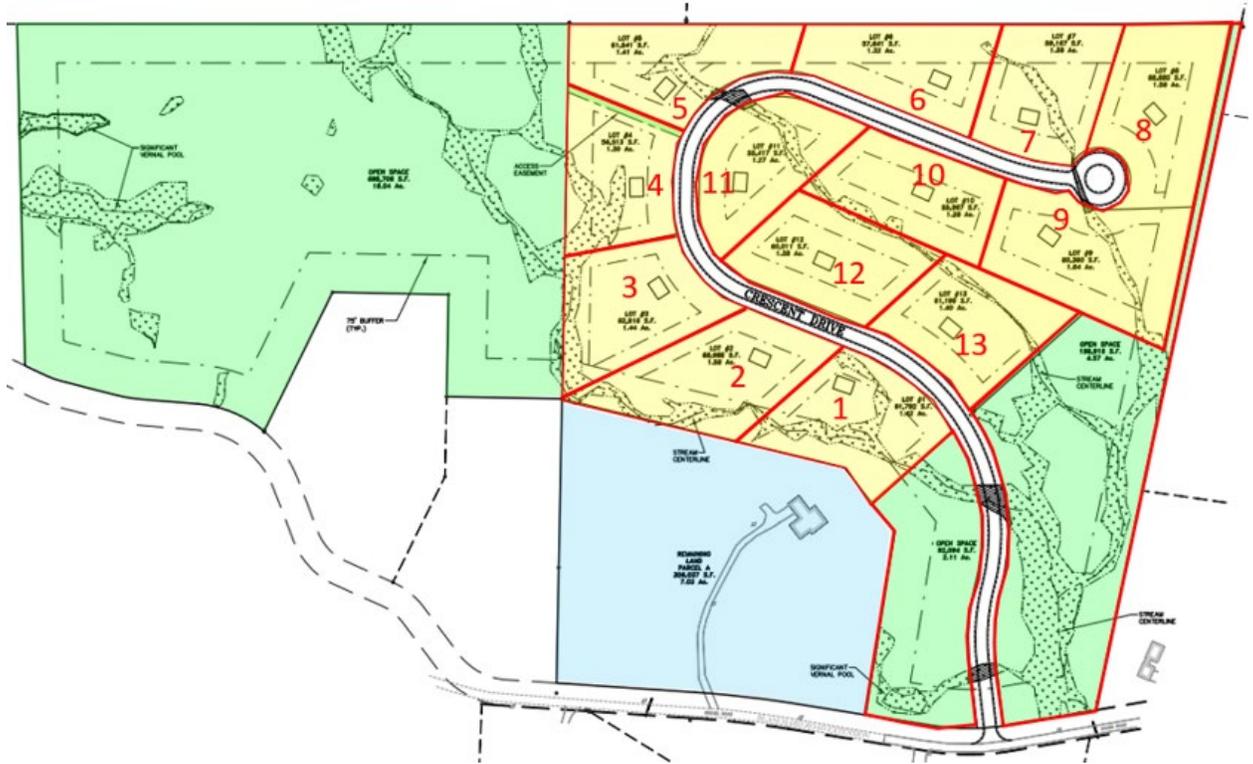


- Blanchard Oaks Subdivision (John) – The developer submitted a conservation subdivision plan for a 13-lot development (see map below) with a portion of the original property being retained (blue shaded area on the map). The developer set aside half of the subdivision property for open space. John made several minor recommendations after review of the initial plan and the developer incorporated those into the most recent plans. Based on the discussion, the LCC finds this initial plan acceptable as it conserves three vernal pools, streams, steep slopes and a large area of wildlife habitat. John will speak in favor of this plan at the March Planning Board workshop.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

## Blanchard Oaks - Conservation



- Signage – Mike proposed placing a plaque or sign by the peony garden indicating that the peonies were donated by the White Pines Community Church. There was no discussion.
- Game Cameras – Mike mentioned that game cameras were placed (with permission by the Town) in the Town Forest and Greely Woods. Mike commented that there were privacy issues as was initially discussed last fall. Bill S said that they were placed away from the trails and were of limited use.
- Mike will send out new Zoom schedules for the Commission and subcommittees. Note that the LCC meeting will be moved up from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m. remaining on the first Wednesday of the month.
- iMapInvasives - Mike attended a webinar for mapping invasive species. Multi-state and Canada involved in an effort to track invasive species. Mike will be following up to determine if we can use the program to start tracking invasive plants in Cumberland.
- Mike asked the various subcommittees to finalize plans for the coming year; will be on agenda for April meeting.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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- Town Forest/ Nature Trail/ BFG (Mike and Ellen) – A comprehensive list of action items needed for the Town Forest/Nature Trail and Butterfly Garden has been compiled and is included in the Commissions plans for 2021.
- Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John) - summarized from John’s notes:
  - Trail Closure Policy – as requested by the LCC, the Trails Subcommittee has been discussing trail closure policy. Brian Stearns presented information on reasons for closing trails, closure criteria, and the policies used by surrounding towns (see below). There are many issues related to closing trails, including who monitors the trails, who makes the decision to close trails, who polices closed trails, and whether individual trails or entire parks are closed. Last year, all Cumberland trails remained open, and members of the Trails Subcommittee closely monitored the trails to identify specific trail segments to target for improvement in the late summer and fall. The Trails Subcommittee recommends that we continue this policy. However, in the event that a specific trail or area needs to be closed, the LCC Chair along with the Chairs of the Trails and Forestry Subcommittees will make that decision.

Trail Network	Written Policy?	Who makes the decision?	Closures for ALL users?	How are closures Announced?	Trail Closure Signage
Falmouth	Yes	Open Space Manager, property steward, Lands Committee member, one trail builder/user	Yes	Town Website, Facebook Groups, email to user/volunteer lists	Closure Signs and tape or rope across trailheads
Yarmouth Westside Trail	No	Trail Manager and a couple Volunteers	Yes	Town Website, Facebook Groups, email to user/volunteer lists	Closure Signs and tape or rope across trailheads
Gorham Trails	No	Volunteers	Yes*	Facebook Groups, Trailforks App	None

\*Gorham Trail volunteers do not have authority to close trails, only to suggest closures due to varied ownership (Town, Land Trust, Private)

- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
  - Denny has completed site visits and an inventory of all town-owned forest land over 10 acres including reviewing recorded deeds. In addition to the four large forests, there are others that total 215 acres bringing the total of forested acres to 846. These smaller properties include: Greely Woods (40), Broad Cove (22), Sunnyfield (24), Crossing Brook (31), Westbranch Road (21), Range Way (57) and Valley Road (20). All the smaller parcels appear to be healthy and growing well with the exception of Valley Road which has a severe bittersweet invasion. In the coming years, we should blaze the boundary lines, complete forest inventories and develop mini-plans for these smaller forest lands. See summary in CAPS minutes below.
  - The Subcommittee voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Climate Action Plan Subcommittee for a 225 acre forest carbon reserve and develop in future a recommendation for which of the Town’s forested lands would be set aside for this purpose.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- The Commission voted unanimously in favor of retaining Paul Larrivee as a consulting forester for the 2021-2011 harvest at Twin Brook. Paul would:
  - Ensure the harvest meets the Guiding Principles
  - Prepare a written contract for execution by Bill Shane (landowner) and Jeff Storey (logging contractor)
  - Ensure that all timber removals are documented and paid for
  - Review the 2016 Management Plan and recommend any revisions in light of the Guiding Principles
  - Be compensated for this work at an hourly rate to be negotiated between Paul and Bill Shane.

- Climate Action Subcommittee (From Denny's notes)

- The Forestry Subcommittee has conducted an inventory of all Town-owned conserved lands including site visits and deed searches. As shown in the table below, the total is just shy of 1200 acres with 846 acres forested. The proposed forest carbon reserve of 225 acres represents 26% of the total. Several of the smaller holdings are not accessible for harvesting of wood products. There are also 260 acres of zoned open space in Cumberland, owned primarily by neighborhood associations.

Town-Owned Lands	Total	Forested
Greely Woods	40	40
Broad Cove	22	22
Sunnyfield	24	24
Crossing Brook	31	31
Westbranch Road	21	21
Range Way	57	57
Valley Road	20	20
Town Forest	109	67
Rines Forest	272	272
Twin Brook	250	129
Knights Pond	163	163
Valhalla	154	0
	<b>1163</b>	<b>846</b>

- Denny explained that the idea of solar teams, an idea presented at their meeting by Justin Levesque, a Cumberland resident residing on Tuttle Road. Using open source software from PVOutput.org, owners of solar arrays can upload from their inverters information about their solar array including size and daily production. Justin has set up a Cumberland Maine team and recommends promoting the concept to other Cumberland residents. This type of application can draw attention to the number of residents adopting solar and be a resource to those considering such a project. The CAPS strongly endorsed this concept and encouraged Justin to publish information about this team on the Cumberland Crier.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Invasive species – Sam mentioned that he was in conservation with North Yarmouth. They are interested in the work we are doing to control invasive species in the Town Forest. They are moving down the same path we are.
- Farmland assessment (Mike) – Info gathering. Looking at laws and ordinances from other areas. Matt Grondin was appointed to the Farmland Subcommittee. Looking to retain speakers to discuss policy issues.
- New Business – Bill S mentioned that Mike should periodically attend Town Council meetings. The Town Council will set aside ½ hour to discuss ongoing projects – subcommittee updates.
- Next meeting April 7th, 2021, 7:00. – **NOTE NEW TIME**