

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: June 2, 2022

(\*\* = town manager; \* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; (T) = trails SC; (F) = forest SC)

Bill Shane\*\*, Bill Longley ++ (abs); Mark Segrist + (abs); Allison Foster+ (abs)

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)	*Mike Schwindt	(F) Ted Chadbourne	(T) Shaun Breton
Denny Gallaudet	George Turner (abs)	(F) Melissa Cott	(T) Stephen Fitzgerald
Matt Grondin (abs)	Pete Wilson (abs)	(F) John Leavitt	(T) *John Jensenius ✓
Ellen Hoffman	David Young	(F) *Gordon Lichter ✓	(T) Matthew Leclair
John Jensenius vice*		(F) Linda Putnam	(T) Brian Stearns
Riva Krut		(F) Todd Ontl	(T) John Stewart
		(F) Sally Stockwell	(T) Don Stowell

Sustainability Subcommittee:

Sukie Curtis, Jenn Grasso, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Ivy Frignoca

**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 June 1, 2022. Meeting held via Zoom. Jonathan Dawson from CCLT also attended.

- May minutes were approved as written.
- **Town Council** (Allison – from email)
  - Survey Results: Data was extracted late last week and actively being compiled and summarized. Expect to share during a June workshop (agenda and time permitted) as originally planned. We had ~1,700 respondents which is about double what we had in the last survey.
  - Affordable Housing Task Force: Last Monday, the council met during a workshop to discuss the formation of an affordable housing task force. The task force would be asked to research and define the various needs to include such groups, but not limited to, as low income, middle income, seniors, asylum seekers and refugees, to create various proposed solutions and to report back to the council with their findings toward the end of the year. The council agenda for Monday includes formally voting to establish the task force, defining its structure and responsibilities, and specifying the end date for report back to the council. As an agenda item, this will be open for public comment during Monday's meeting. It is also currently proposed that the task force members consist of both public officials and private citizens so if anyone is interested and has appropriate background in affordable housing, we ask that they keep an eye out for the application process to begin after Monday's meeting.
  - Riva asked if there will be a relationship between the Affordable Housing Task Force and the LCC. She said there should be coordination of efforts.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

### ○ **Commission (Mike)**

- Bill report (Bill Shane):
  - Planning Board meeting scheduled for June will include:
    - Public Hearing: Preliminary Major Subdivision Review for Evergreen Estates, a 10 unit residential development on a 5.69 acre parcel located on Old Gray Rd. in the VMDR zone.
  - Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
    - Bill noted that commercial activity is picking up. Possible 55 unit senior housing project on Route 1 near the Falmouth line.
    - Joint project with Falmouth Route 1 area.
    - 13,000 sq. ft. veterinary hospital – independently owned Route 1.
  - Val Halla – Oceanview Phase 2 underway. Lots of tree cutting along boundary area. The slash and slag will be cleaned up.
- Fiscal Operating Guidelines (Mike). Below is the draft of the LCC Fiscal Operating Guidelines starting July 2022 (the draft has incorrect date):

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### DRAFT

#### Lands and Conservation Commission Fiscal Operating Guidelines 7/1/2023

With the approval of a budget for the LCC, we need a few guidelines to follow along with the way the Town does business and manages resources.

#### PRIOR APPROVAL

All expenditures of over \$1,000 need the approval of the Town Manager. Expenditures between \$500 and \$1,000 need the prior approval of Helene DiBartolomeo, the Finance Director, at [hdibartolomeo@cumberlandmaine.com](mailto:hdibartolomeo@cumberlandmaine.com). Emails are fine for obtaining the prior approval.

#### TOWN CONTRACTS

To the reasonable extent, use the vendors under contract with the Town for best prices. If you have a question as to the contract, contact the LCC Chair.

#### TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE

I have copies to be provided to those who will be doing the purchasing so the merchant doesn't charge sales tax. More copies can be obtained as needed.

#### INTERNAL ACTIVITIES



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

Once the Town Council approves the budget, the Chairs of the Commission and the Subcommittees will allocate the resources to the individual groups with the expectation the funds will be used for budgeted activities. Should it become necessary to reallocate resources among the groups, the Chairs will make the reallocations, subject to exception by at least three Commission members. Should there be an exception, final decision will be by the full LCC.

Effective July 1, 2022, all purchases, including receipts will be provided to the Commission Chair for review and transmission to the Finance Office for payment. (If helpful, I can construct a 1-page voucher for handling the payment process.)

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- Work Plans revised due to budget changes
    - Commission
- 

Lands and Conservation Commission  
Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan  
May 31, 2022  
**DRAFT**

During the 2023 fiscal year, the LCC will:

- Support the subcommittees in meeting their approved workplans for the year.
- Develop operating instructions for use by the Commission and its subcommittees.
- Determine whether to apply for “Tree City” status.
- Develop plans for an orchard and community garden plots consistent with the approved budget.
- Complete signage and trail mapping of major Town properties.
- Develop a strategy for addressing invasives on Town properties.
- Maintain butterfly garden, peony garden and pollinator garden at Val Halla

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- Recreational Trails

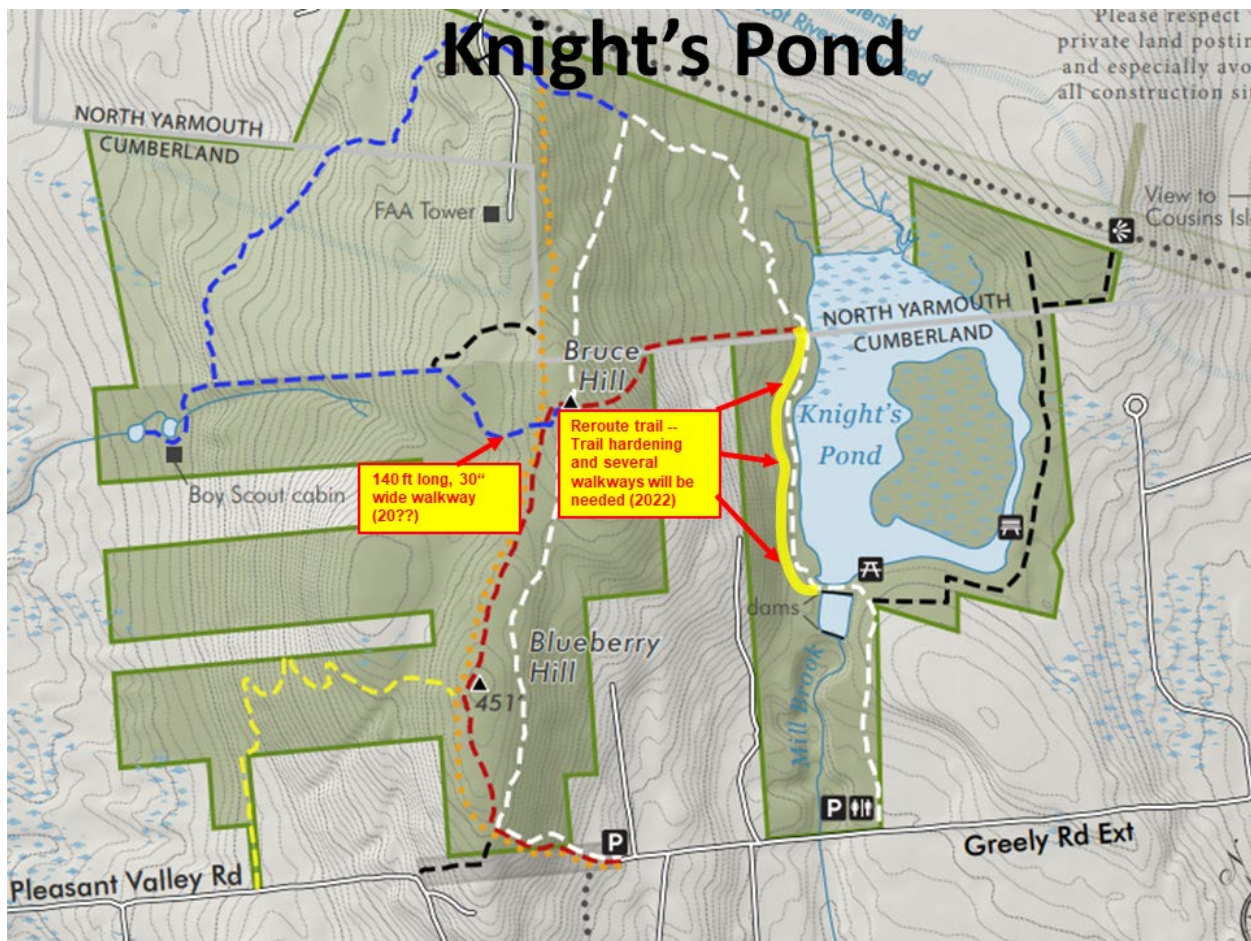
### **Recreational Trails Subcommittee FY2023 Plans**

During FY2023, the Recreational Trails Subcommittee plans to continue its efforts to build and maintain sustainable trails on Town-owned properties. We will also explore opportunities to obtain trail easements in Greely Woods and Crystal Lane subdivisions. The following maps outline work plans for Knight’s Pond, Rines Forest, Greely Woods. Weather, ground conditions, and possibly insect infestations may affect the order in which these projects will be done.

For Knight’s Pond, initial efforts will be focused on continuing to relocate the trail along the northwest side of Knight’s Pond and building any necessary bridges and walkways. Depending on funding, the 140 ft. walkway over the wet area on the blue trail near the ridgeline may also get done.



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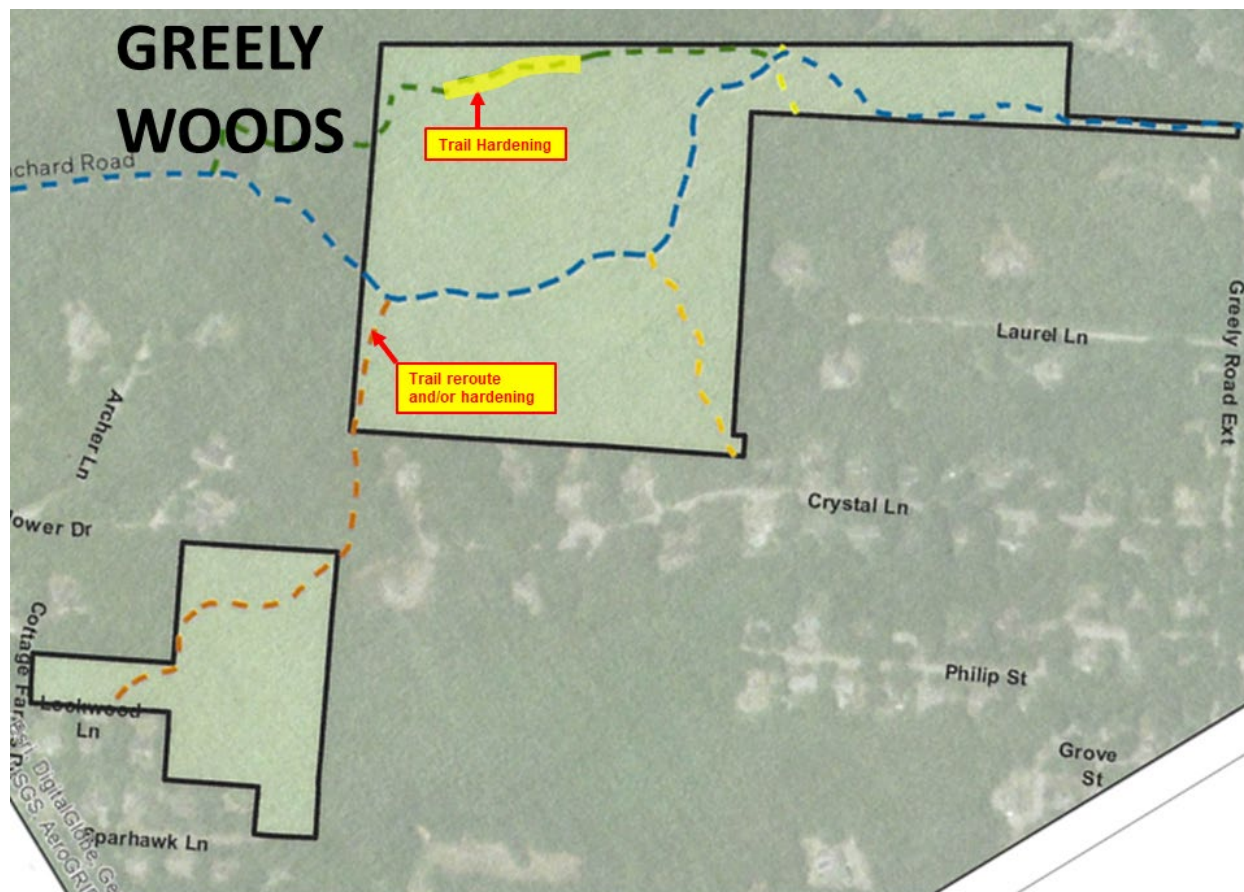


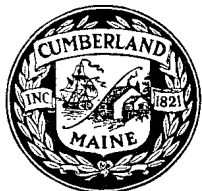




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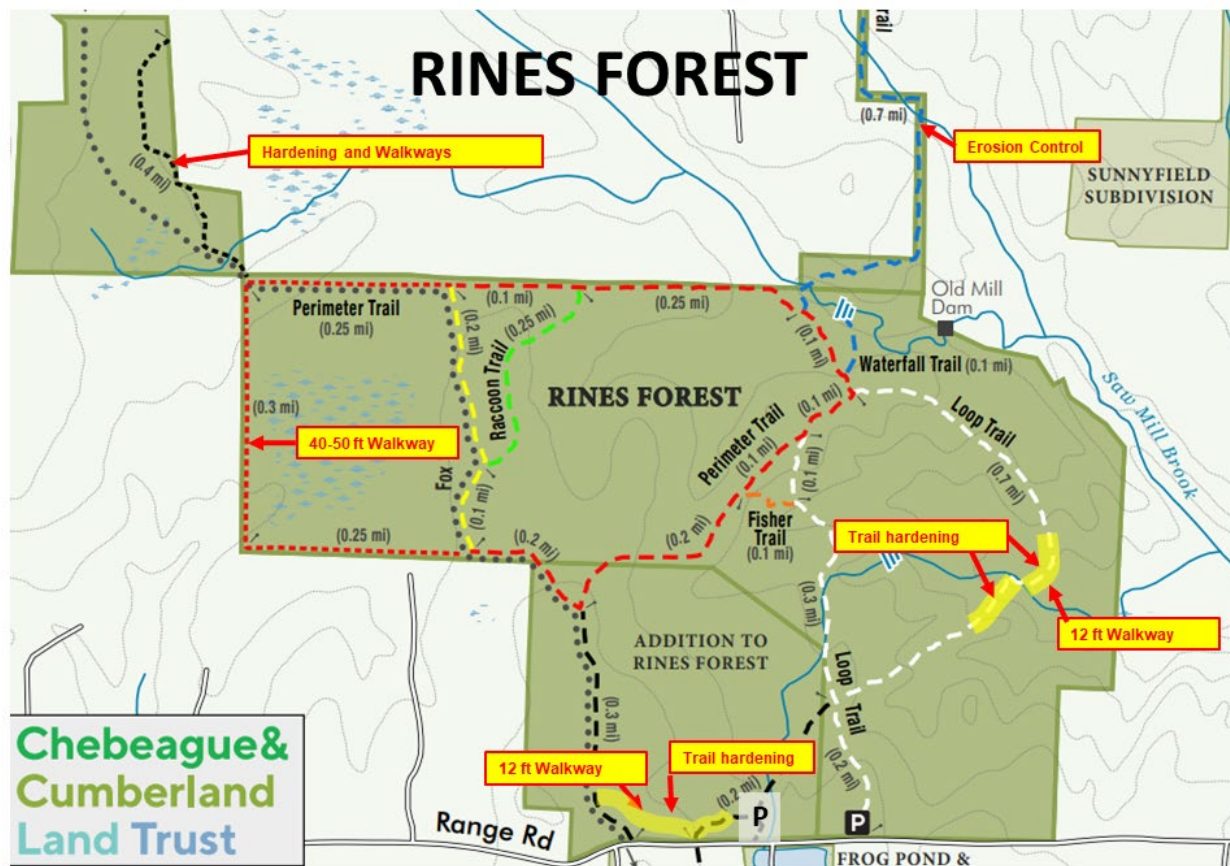
For Greely Woods, trail hardening will be an ongoing effort during FY2023. Changing/deteriorating trail conditions will determine the work to be done and available resources (manpower and gravel) will determine how quickly this work can be accomplished.





# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

Due to the efforts needed to complete the work at Knight’s Pond, much of the work shown for Rines Forest will likely occur in the fall of 2022 and the spring of 2023. Trail conditions may limit some of this work. In particular, the hardening and walkways shown in the “Godsoe” portion of Rines Forest is dependent on trail improvements to be completed by Public Works. These improvements are needed in order to bring materials in to that portion of the trail. For the other work projects, the trails will be routinely monitored and work will be prioritized based on trail conditions and needs.



- Sustainability Subcommittee:

## 2022-23 Work Plan Cumberland Sustainability Subcommittee

Phase II Recommended Actions		MT CO2e Avoided
1	Reduce GHG emissions from home energy use – promote heat pump use	24,000
2	Reduce GHG from transport	18,000
3	Adopt ecologically productive, low carbon/ low water landscaping practices	10,000
4	Support 30X30 goal of conserving 30% Cumberland’s lands by 2030	4,000
5	Purchase low-cost carbon offsets from Town owned forest lands	3,000
6	Install low-cost solar panels	1,600
7	Decrease food waste through composting	1,000
8	Adopt the 2021 IECC “stretch” energy efficiency goal for new construction	800
9	Buy more locally grown food.	Not yet calculated
10	Ensure the integrity of water quality in Broad Cove.	Not yet calculated



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

1. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent) Provide informational material on heat pump installation at least once on Cumberland Crier. Host one virtual information session at Town Office.
2. (Riva Krut) Monitor/disseminate information from Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and Future (GOPIF). Interact with local dealers such as Lee Auto
3. (Sukie Curtis) Provide informational material on Crier. Develop and propose by Spring 2023 trial incentive program for residents to adopt sustainable landscaping – e.g., mini grants of landscaper consults
4. (Denny Gallaudet). Assist in modifications to Conservation Subdivision Ordinance. Collaborate with CCLT on Read Family Easement and any new proposals.
5. (Denny Gallaudet). Defer to 2023-24 work plan
6. (Denny Gallaudet). No action needed
7. (Riva Krut). Work with PW to develop food waste compost system at site of brush dump. Assist in grant application to MDEP
8. (Jenn Nuzzo). Monitor adoption of this goal by Code Enforcement
9. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent) no action needed
10. (Ivy Frignoca). As Casco Bay Keeper, keep Town aware of any watershed initiatives that require Town involvement.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

## Carryover from Phase I

- i. Develop a MSAD 51 solar farm.
  - ii. Install industrial scale heat pumps to supplement natural gas heating and mitigate the GHG effects of natural gas heating.
  - iii. Phase in EV or plug-in hybrid automobiles, light duty vehicles and school buses
  - iv. Set aside a 225-acre forest carbon reserve from town-owned woodlands.
  - v. Design and build new public buildings to a zero-carbon standard.
  - vi. Make available 5-10 acre parcels of town-owned land to market gardeners.
  - vii. Develop a tree planting program for public ways and easements.
  - viii. Engage MSAD 51 staff to integrate sustainability principles and the CAP into K-12 curricula.
  - ix. Delegate to the Town staff the duty to annually analyze and report the GHG emissions generated within Cumberland.
1. (Denny Gallaudet). In process. DG on working group headed by Bill Shane
  2. (Denny Gallaudet). will submit up to three \$50,000 GOPIF grants for this project
  3. Completed. under advisement by Chris Bolduc
  4. (Denny Gallaudet). under advisement by Forestry Subcommittee
  5. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent, Jenn Nuzzo). monitor/join Building Committee for North Yarmouth elementary school project. TC support letter already sent to MSAD 51 Board.
  6. No town land available at present.
  7. (Sukie Curtis, Riva Krut) monitor with Public Works
  8. Completed.
  9. Completed. under advisement by Bill Shane

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- Forestry Subcommittee:

### 2023 Forestry Subcommittee Draft Work Plan

- Complete new management plan for Twin Brook that is consistent with the Guiding Principles (2H 2022)
- Remediate erosion area at the end of Greely Road Extension (Timing TBD)
- Continue treatment of invasives at Rines Forest, Town Forest and Twin Brook (Year-round)
- - Emphasis on tracking effectiveness of treatment on different species
  - Create invasive mgmt plans and submit grants to subsidize cost of remediation
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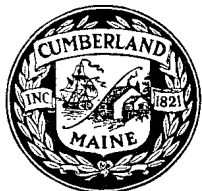
Initiate grassland ecosystems management (Q3 2022)

- - Influence management of town-owned grasslands and recommendations for local grassland owners and farmers
  - Meet with Ag Allies to learn best practices
  - Share findings with Climate Action Plan Subcommittee for potential sustainable farming use
  -
- Create temporary and permanent educational signage for upcoming projects (Year-round)
- - Erosion control
  - Invasives management
  - White trail relocation @ Knights Pond
  - Any harvest work
  - Forest wildlife education
  -

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- Twin Brook – Greely Rd Wilderness Trail – Ellen asked if any work could be done to harden or improve the Wilderness Trail. This trail was not mentioned in the 2022/23 work plans. Trail very wet. Bill said that it is more work than can be done by the trails subcommittee. The trail should be walked with the interested parties along with Dan Diffin (engineer) to discuss and see what can be done. Need to be careful regarding DEP regulations.
  - CFL recycling at Town Hall – no update.
  - Mike mentioned a large portion of LCC budget going towards invasive control. Bill will take lead on those expenditures.
  - Mike requested annual report write ups from subcommittee chairs be submitted to him by August 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John) -**

- Greely Woods – Trail hardening on the Blue Trail is completed. Work on the Green Trail will be in several weeks.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Knight's Pond – a 26 ft. walkway was constructed over a wet area on the southeast side of the pond. In addition, work has begun on the relocation of the White Trail on the northwest side of the pond.







## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Town Forest – a gravel trail was built with the help of a Greely High School senior connecting the Blue Trail to the Butterfly Garden (Red Trail – field loop).



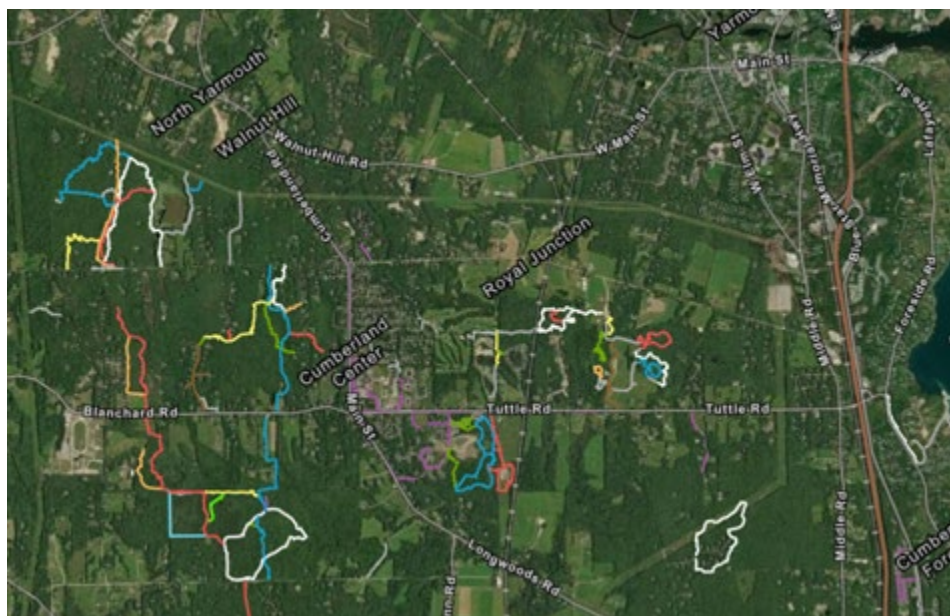
- Broad Cove – A trail “hiker” sign was erected to highlight the connection to the trail at Spears Hill that will be open very soon.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Online Mapping – The online mapping efforts are near completion and should be available soon.



- Kiosks: The Boy Scout continues his work on the six new kiosks. Nine new kiosk maps are being prepared and will be ready soon. The kiosk at the Town Forest Drowne Rd entrance still needs to be moved to the other side of the trail.

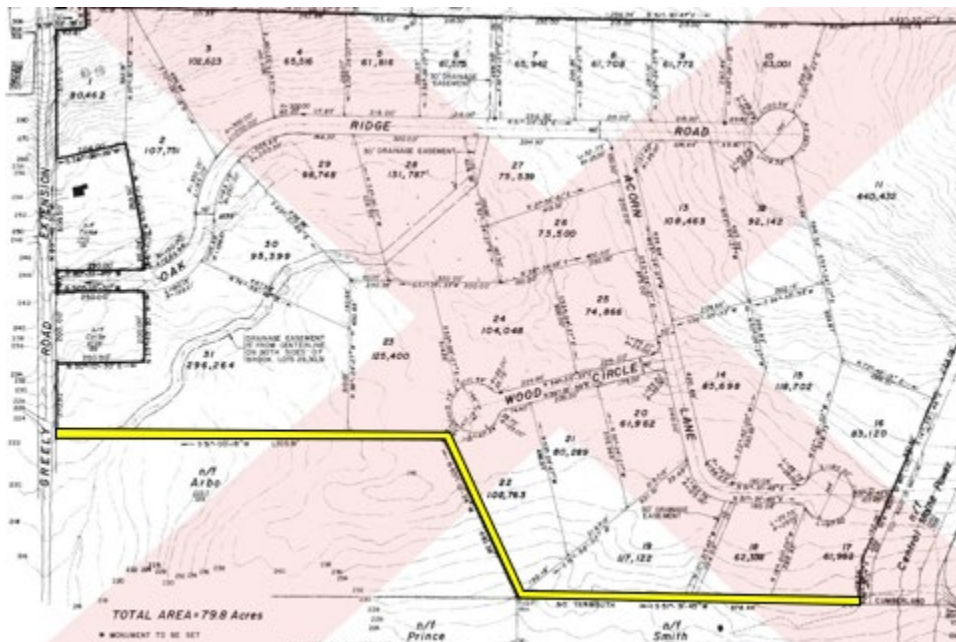




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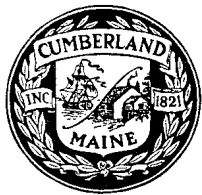


- Greely Woods Subdivision Recreational Easement: All six property owners have been contacted. The Town's attorney will prepare a draft written easement for the property owners to review.



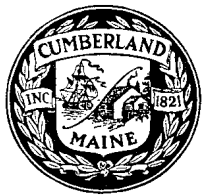
- **Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee** (Gordon and his meeting notes)
  - Twin Brook
    - Paul still to complete the no-cut boundary marking and removing hazard tree markers.





## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Budget confirmed; move forward with the Management Plan so Paul is clear to begin timber cruise.
- Subcommittee memo and Paul's letter regarding harvesting has been sent to Town Council. Plan workshop after new Council has been seated by July. Bill suggested workshop should be before Labor Day. Mike will send out details including attendees.
- Ag Allies Grassland Walk: Will try and schedule a walk for June 10<sup>th</sup> – need to confirm team availability. Plan is to start walk at Town Forest, then Twin Brook and maybe along golf course on Greely Rd.
- Rines Forest – Management Plan
  - Need to schedule walk to discuss potential reserve area expansion
  - Need to schedule date to cut invasives.
- Knights Pond
  - Gordon and Todd “fixed” the improperly and wrongly cut branches along the Pond shore.
  - Management plan updates made; subcommittee to review and get input from RRLT.
  - Greely Rd Extension Erosion
    - Harvest not feasible from that entrance given the erosion and ledge leading up to the likely landing area
    - Need to discuss erosion issue
    - Gordon to re-engage Town and schedule Zoom meeting or site visit to have Paul suggest remediation strategies
    - Sally to get in touch with RRLT to check status of potential purchase or easements through the “fingers” on the side of the forest
- Signage
  - Sally checked the Audubon templates. Signs are 36x24 and printed on aluminum, which is mounted to a 4x4
  - Suggestion about printing temporary signs (trail moves, invasives, etc.) on other cheaper material
  - Gordon to follow-up with Bill about options for printing signs.
- **Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)**
  - GOPIF Grants (Governor's Office of Policy and Innovation and the Future) – Town is working with GPCOG to submit a \$50,000 grant request in September. This will likely be to fund engineering analysis and initial installation work for VRF supplemental heating for library and Town Hall. Two additional rounds of \$50,000 each are available later in the year.
  - Federal stimulus bill has made available \$500 million for clean school buses. School districts apply directly to Federal EPA. For EV busses, up to 25 replacements can be requested for diesel busses 2010 or older; \$250,000 per bus. Scott Poulin (MSAD51 Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources) has asked SSC for assistance in submitting grant request. Due by mid-August 2022.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Riva met with Susanne Lee of UMO Mitchell Institute on food scrap diversion program in connection with the CAP II action item. Lee and MDEP will be meeting with Cumberland and other towns early in June at Cumberland Town Office. Best practice would be standalone compost operation with food scrap and horse/other manure, separate from current brush dump. Alternative would be to outsource food waste composting to third party.
  - Riva talked about food waste and the concern of the hierarchy of food waste.
    - Concern of contamination of herbicides if using to grow food
    - Cumberland set up another compost for food and other waste
    - Communication needed
    - Lot to learn in stream of activity of waste and carbon emissions and removal of trees to grow produce, transportation issues
    - Garbage to Gardens currently hauls waste to Portland. Great town-wide participation and compliance within town. Perhaps could haul to local compost site instead of Portland.
  - Project to let residents try out electric mowers – borrow through library. Grant through DEP.
- **Invasive plants** (Mike) – No update
  - **Farmland assessment** (Dave) – No update
  - Next meeting August 3<sup>rd</sup> – no meeting in July - 7:00 PM possibly in person.