

TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: August 4, 2022

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

Chris Bolduc; Bill Longley ++; Mark Segrist+ (abs); Tig Filson+ (abs)

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)

Denny Gallaudet

Ellen Hoffman

John Jensenius ^{vice*}

Riva Krut

*Mike Schwindt

George Turner (abs)

Pete Wilson

David Young (abs)

^(F) Ted Chadbourne

^(F) Melissa Cott

^(F) John Leavitt

^(F) *Gordon Lichter ✓

^(F) Linda Putnam

^(F) Todd Ontl

^(F) Sally Stockwell

^(T) Shaun Breton

^(T) Stephen Fitzgerald

^(T) *John Jensenius ✓

^(T) Brian Stearns

^(T) John Stewart

^(T) Don Stowell

Sustainability Subcommittee

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

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 August 3, 2022. Meeting held via Zoom. Jonathan Dawson and Rod Vogel from CCLT also attended.

- June minutes were approved as written. There was no meeting held in July.
- Chris Bolduc (assistant Town Manager and Director Public Works) was welcomed; replacement for Bill Shane as the Town liaison to the Commission.
- **Town Council** – no update; both Council members were at School Board interview.
- **Commission** (Mike)
 - Bill report (summarized from Bill L's notes):
 - During the months of June and July 2022, 62 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; 46 permits have been issued.
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; 19 building permits issued.
 - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – seven building permits issued.
 - Blanchard Oaks – Peaceful Way – 13 building permits issued and all 13 lots are sold.
 - Planning Board meeting scheduled for August 16th will include:



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- Sketch Plan – Wyatt property 18 units in 9 two-family detached units.
- Lakeside Concrete amendment for water connection and relocate a dumpster pad and shed at Environmental Way.
- Change in sign ordinance for “Temporary off-premises”. Non-commercial signs.
- Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - 10-Lot subdivision between 1-95 & Old Gray Road in the VMDR zone.
 - Major-Site Plan amendment for LGC Clinical Diagnostics new solar. Question of noise issue and closeness to residential properties.
 - Yarmouth Vet (next to Lakeside Concrete).
- Heat pumps permits issued calendar YTD = 103
- Solar permits issued calendar YTD = 34
- Car Chargers in YTD = 7
- Riva asked if it was possible to show trends – how many permits issued over time.
- Resignation of Ivy Frignoca from the Sustainability Subcommittee, Matt Grondin from the Commission and Matt Leclair from the Trails Subcommittee. A replacement for Ivy can be made by the Commission, but replacements of the two Matts is by the Town Council. Riva suggested putting an announcement in Crier and the Town’s Home page.
- Community Resilience Partnership (Denny) – State climate action at local level. Grant opportunities. \$150,000 available to support local climate action plans.
 - Idea of bulk purchasing heat pumps, solar panels – a lot of interest.
 - Grant for engineering work – retrofit library with heat pump.
 - Industrial strength electric mower for Public Works – currently use a lot of diesel fuel. Chris looking into getting information. Electric mower could be used at Val Halla and Twin Brook. Good visibility for this technology.
 - See program contract below:

Program Contact: Brian Ambrette brian.ambrette@maine.gov

[Community Resilience Partnership | Office of Policy Innovation & Future \(maine.gov\)](#)

WHEREAS, the Town of Cumberland has completed the Community Resilience Partnership’s Community Resilience Self-Assessment and List of Community Actions, and held a community workshop(s) on June 22, 2022 which prioritized the following action areas:

- Adopt policies that enable, support, or incentivize local food production and consumption, including community gardens.



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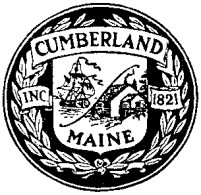
- Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal buildings.
- Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation
- Initiate a community bulk purchasing program for heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.
- Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.
- Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.

WHEREAS, the Community Resilience Partnership provides grants to municipalities and Tribal Governments for activities that lower energy expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase community resilience in alignment with the state's climate action plan and goals;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Cumberland commits to participating in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resiliency to extreme weather and climate change impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Cumberland designates the Lands and Conservation Commission to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects (when approved by the Town Council) and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

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- Fiscal Operating Guidelines (Mike) – Currently untried. There is a drop box at Town Hall to be “used primarily for receipts but can also serve as a Commission “mailbox”. Pete wondered how we can comparison shop if don't know what we are paying. It was mentioned that the Town's discount is quite good. We will leave draft operating guidelines as is for now.
 - MACC (Mike) – Maine Association of Conservation Commissions – Sam used to be our representative. Mike has reached out to MACC; waiting on a response.
 - Coastal Conference (Mike) – A call to action – confronting rising seas and coastal erosion. September 27th 8:30 – 4pm Ferry Beach Conference Center. Let Mike know if you are interested in attending.
 - Mike requested annual report write-ups from subcommittee chairs be submitted to him by August 10th. His deadline to get annual report to Town, August 30th.



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

- **Knights Pond** – The re-route of the White Trail on the northwest side of the pond is just about complete. John discussed the process of removing layers of trail to get down to the inorganic layer before hardening the trail. Three spurs off the main trail were created so people can access areas with views of the pond. The new trail and spurs have been GPS-ed and will appear on the online trail map soon. Some of the lower branches along the trail may need to be pruned to improve views. “Trail Closed” signs have been ordered and the old trail will be closed shortly after they arrive. John said debris was dragged over the old trail to discourage its use. Over 200-hours of volunteer time went into building the new trail. Denny asked about trail from the new school to Knights Pond. He said that the Royal River Land Trust is looking into a viewing stand on the North Yarmouth side. John had no info to add.



- **Greely Woods** – Work is continuing on hardening the trail. So far this year, six yards of gravel have been used to improve wet and rooty sections of the Blue and Green trails.
- **Rines Forest** – Public Works has completed their work on a section of the snowmobile trail on the northeast side of the property that was badly in need of repair. They may still install a couple of culverts across other sections of the trail before winter. With the trail improvements, the side trail that was built to get around the bad sections of the snowmobile trail has been closed. In addition, the Blue, White, and Green trails have been trimmed and pruned to conform to clearance standards. The Trails Subcommittee will be reviewing plans for fall improvements



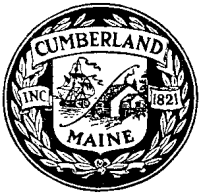
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including some trail hardening and possibly building a long walkway in a wet, muddy and rooty stretch along the property perimeter near the Di Vinci bridge.

Rines Forest



- Broad Cove – The Spears Hill Trail is now open.
- Online Trail Mapping – a color-coded map of all Town trails is now available online. It can be found under the Parks Department tab and will eventually be available from each park's webpage.



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Cumberland Online Mapping



- Park Kiosks – The Boy Scout that has been working on the six kiosks for his Eagle Scout project now estimates that they will be finished by early September.
- Park Kiosks Maps – Draft copies of the kiosk maps for Twin Brook, Rines Forest, Knight's Pond, Greely Woods, and the Town Forest are in the final review process.
- Possible Greely Woods subdivision trail easement – The Town's attorney has prepared a draft trail easement for the area covered by the recreational easement in the Greely Woods subdivision. The trail easement would establish what is and is not allowed in the recreational easement area and also specify who would be allowed to maintain the trail. The draft easement is under review by the homeowners.
- Possible Trail Connecting the Farwell Ave. Trail to the Red Mill sidewalk – Citing security concerns, MSAD51 has decided against building this possible connection.
- New Business – John will be working with Whitney on the Parks/Trails and LCC webpages. The goal is to improve structure and consistency, and improve the menus so the information cascades downward in a logical fashion.
- Pete questioned the eight-foot-wide trail in Rines. How was this decided? It was noted that this is the width that was needed to get heavy equipment in. Also, this is a snowmobile accessible trail and this width meets snowmobile trail standards.



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- Pete asked about hunting and trapping in Knights Pond – Mike said take up under new business next meeting.

○ **Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee** (Gordon)

- The majority of the Forestry Subcommittee meeting was spent review and discussing comments members made on the Rines Forest and Knights Pond management plans. Expand reserve area in Rines Forest – language needs to be very specific.
- Ag Allies – Feedback from grassland walk – concern for ground nesting birds – need to wait to mow until the birds such as bobolinks and Savannah sparrows have fledged. Suggested to wait until July 15 to mow.
 - Put plan together grassland management best practices then send to Town Council for approval fall/winter. Look to North Yarmouth to see if they have a draft plan that Cumberland can co-opt.
 - Denny asked if there was an issue with lower productivity in grass when mow later in the year.
 - Chris recommended putting mowing plan in writing. Look at what North Yarmouth is doing.
 - Denny questioned if we should be haying so much – one cut instead of two; sustainability – environmental impact.
 - Conflict between farming and wildlife. Need to balance between way Town lands are being used.
 - Town create opportunity on Town land to create small farms – number one item in climate action survey.

○ **Sustainability Subcommittee** (Denny)

- Composting (Riva) – Riva and Bill working on offering a food composting opportunity at the bush dump. Mix food with horse manure – which is already being brought in from the fair grounds. Will contact Garbage to Garden – offer Town residents to bring in food waste to brush dump for free. Set up as a pilot project. Garbage to Garden won't have to travel as far. Take food waste out of waste stream. Working with UMO George Mitchell Institute. Create a product to sell. Denny mentioned that Vermont does not allow food waste in the waste stream.
- Federal stimulus bill (American Rescue Plan) has made available \$500 million for clean running 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.

○ **Invasive plants** (Mike)

- Kelly Greenlee (library) acted as a coordinator to pull interested residents together for meeting discussing invasive species in town. Mandy Bell will head the group. Looking at areas around library and Town Hall to start. Volunteer when next work is done in Rines. Look into training



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with iMapInvasives late August/early September. Issue of disposal of cutting – how to get rid once cut.

- Gordon mentioned that no one has heard back from the invasive grant proposal submissions (first to create a plan, then grant to implement).
 - Grinding in Town Forest end of August.
 - CFL pilot project (Ellen) – Chris talked about having a container like a large plastic trash barrel with lid at the salt shed. Available only when brush dump open. How will we advertise? How will container get to e-waste disposal?
- **Farmland assessment** (Dave) – No update
 - Next meeting September 7th - 7:00 PM in person or Zoom TBD.