

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: January 5, 2023

(\* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; <sup>(T)</sup> = trails SC; <sup>(F)</sup> = forest SC)

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

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)

Pete Wilson

<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott

<sup>(T)</sup> Shaun Breton

Denny Gallaudet

David Young (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> John Leavitt

<sup>(T)</sup> Paige Diamant

Ellen Hoffman

<sup>(F)</sup> \*Gordon Lichter ✓

<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald

John Jensenius <sup>vice\*</sup>

<sup>(F)</sup> Todd Ontl

<sup>(T)</sup> David Grimm

Riva Krut (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam

<sup>(T)</sup> \*John Jensenius ✓

\*Mike Schwindt

<sup>(F)</sup> Sally Stockwell

<sup>(T)</sup> Walker Newell

Joshua Steirman

<sup>(T)</sup> Adam Orellana

George Turner

<sup>(T)</sup> Brian Stearns

<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell

Sustainability Subcommittee

Sukie Curtis, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Meddy Smith, Dave Witherill

Invasives Subcommittee:

Ellen Hoffman, John Jensenius, Mike Schwindt

Farmland Subcommittee:

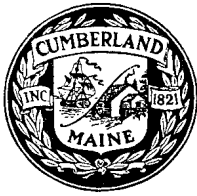
John Jensenius, Mike Schwindt, Bill Shane, Bob Vail, David Young

**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 January 4, 2023. Meeting held via Zoom. Also attending: Penny Asherman (CCLT).

- December minutes were approved as written.
- Town Council report (Tig)
  - Recognition was given to Andrew for the fantastic work he did on the kiosks.
  - George Turner was appointed to Planning Board.
  - Recommendation on affordable housing was presented to Town Council by the Cumberland Affordable Housing Task Force. Work shop February 13 – next steps.
  - Budget workshops – initial meeting February 27 5 pm (before Council meeting). Subsequent meetings: March 13, March 27 and Saturday marathon April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chris mentioned that department heads will be notified when budgets are due. Mike will present budget; LCC subcommittees need to start planning. Mike and Chris meet end of January to discuss.



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- Bill Report – there was no Bill Report for December. Subsequent information:
  - Heat pump permits December: 15
  - Solar permits December only: 1
- Town Forest Work (Chris) – hopefully some planned forest cutting can take place while there is no snow. Gordon was concerned that the soft ground might be problematic with the heavy equipment. Chris wasn't too concerned; most of the cutting will be in more solid areas using tracked equipment.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Election of officers:
    - Chair: John nominated Mike; George second; unanimous ballot
    - Vice Chair: Ellen nominated John; unanimous ballot
    - Secretary: John nominated Ellen; unanimous ballot
  - Community Resilience Partnership Grant – Denny announced that Cumberland received \$50,000 from the Community Resilience Partnership Grant. The contract has been issued for the period 12/19/2022 – 12/18/2024. This money will be used for three projects:
    - EV mower for the Public Works department (\$27,000)
    - Engineering analysis and recommendation for Variable Refrigerant Flow system (VRF) retrofit to heat Prince Memorial Library (\$10,000)
    - Educate and outreach to residents on the benefits of sustainable landscaping (\$13,000).

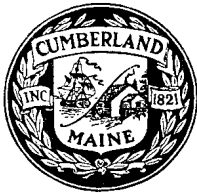
Chris will be managing the first two action items and has already contacted potential vendors. Chris will need approval from the Finance Committee since the Town needs to do a 10% match because the mower is considered an off-road vehicle.

Gordon questioned if the money could only be used for the three specified projects.

George mentioned, if possible, use to educate residents of how to regulate inside house pollution such as mold and radon.

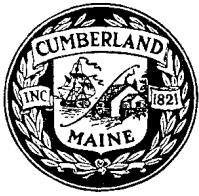
Denny said he will bring idea up at next Sustainability Subcommittee meeting and that there were two more rounds of grants that we could apply for. LCC should look into ideas. He mentioned that Maine Won't Wait (Maine's four year Climate Action Plan) has a punch list of approved actions. Could use some of this money to apply to retrofit library (above grant money was to do a feasibility study).

Denny made motion recommending grant acceptance by the LCC and recommends acceptance of the grant by the Town Council at its January meeting. John seconded; pass unanimous.



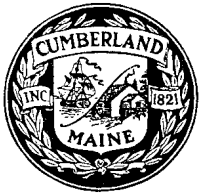
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- John made motion for the LCC and Town Council to accept the resignation of John Stewart from the Trails Subcommittee. Denny seconded; pass unanimously.
- Wood cutting in Twin Brook (Mike) – waiting on a letter from Paul (forester) regarding wood cutting in Twin Brook. Mike reserves the right to call a special meeting when the letter is received so necessary action can be taken.
- Trails Subcommittee (John)
  - John was re-elected as Chair of the Trails Subcommittee.
  - The Trails Subcommittee welcomed Paige Diamant as a new member.
  - The ordinance establishing the Recreation Advisory Board was approved by the Town Council in December. Most of the overlap in responsibilities between the Board and the LCC was removed from the ordinance. There is still some overlap on the trails that are used for organized athletics. Don Stowell will serve as a liaison on any issues between the Trails Subcommittee and the Board, as he serves on both.
  - A 12-ft walkway was built over a muddy area on the Red/White trail in Rines Forest.
  - The remaining signs for the kiosks have now been ordered. Hopefully they will arrive in the next week or so. Thanks to Linda, Ellen and Penny for their helpful comments.
  - Mike and John met with Bob Abbott of North Yarmouth concerning proposed new trails on the North Yarmouth side of Knight's Pond. Both communities, along with Land Trust will also need to be involved.
- Forestry Subcommittee (Gordon)
  - Gordon and Sally re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.
  - As mentioned above, awaiting Paul's letter regarding harvestable trees in Area 1 of Twin Brook. Plan is for Forestry Subcommittee to create an accompanying cover letter and submit to LCC. Twin Brook inventory has started (first step in new management plan).
  - Knight's Pond and Rines Forest Management Plans
    - Received thumbs up from CCLT
    - Town Council planning to discuss/approve Rines plan at February meeting
    - Joint Standing Committee meeting has been rescheduled where Knight's Pond management plan will be discussed/approved.
  - Getting in touch with Paul to obtain more specific timeline for the three invasive management plans to be ready.
  - Forestry Subcommittee is nearly ready to provide its recommended list of acreage to be set aside for carbon storage per the CAP.



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- Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)
  - No officer elections were held.
  - Most of their meeting was spent working on workplan for Community Resilience Partnership Grant. Sustainable landscaping will be a two-year project. Jesse has agreed to be project manager for this project and will be reaching out to interested SCC members and other volunteers. He has already contacted Edgewood Nurseries of Falmouth, ME for informational material and training seminars. Make informational material available to residents at Town Hall. Other members will be working to update the communications plan for the CAP with special attention to introducing the Sustainable Landscaping project to the community.
  - Solar Farm MSAD51 (Denny) 2 projects:
    - The solar farm working group has been working with Revision Energy for as many panels that will fit on the roof of the middle school. This project will start in the near future.
    - Two megawatts ground mounted project on 10 acres of land somewhere in the Town. This will require working with CMP. This is still in planning phase.
  - Next item – potential diesel school bus replacements.
- Invasives Subcommittee (Mike)
  - Tentative training session May 6 for iMapInvasives. No more details available.
  - The community invasive group – on hold until spring.
- Farmland (Mike) – no update
- New Business (Mike)
  - Workplans and budgets for 2024
  - 225 acres set aside for carbon sequestration
  - Twin Brook harvest
  - Grassland Management– The Land Trust wants to encourage and educate the public in the benefits of having less lawn and more nature area in your yard. Denny mentioned 30% of land area in Cumberland is lawn – also sequesters carbon, can be beneficially managed. Need to coordinate between groups.
  - Food composting – on hold until spring. There are grants available for this. Chris and Riva looking into this. DEP is encouraging food composting.
  - Tree City (Riva) – in the works.
  - Town Orchard (Mike) – work with Jesse and Sukie on the sustainability grants; educational and demonstration orchard. Already six trees planted. Mike has started peaches and there are some other donated fruit/trees available.



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- Town Maps are completed and on kiosks. The maps need to be more visible on the Town's website.
- Chris would like a Chris List (similar to the Bill Report) so there is a running account of what needs his attention and what has been completed. Ellen mentioned that a trail distance sign in the Town Forest has come down and might need to be replaced.

Next meeting – February 1<sup>st</sup> 7pm.