

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: December 10, 2022

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

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

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)

Pete Wilson

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

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

Denny Gallaudet

David Young

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

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

Ellen Hoffman

<sup>(F)</sup> \*Gordon Lichter ✓

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

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

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

<sup>(T)</sup> \*John Jensenius ✓

Riva Krut

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

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

\*Mike Schwindt

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

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

Joshua Steirman

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

George Turner

<sup>(T)</sup> John Stewart

<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:

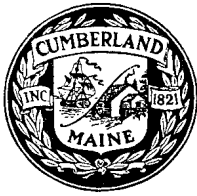
John Jensenius, Mike Schwindt, Bill Shane, Bob Vail, David Young

**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 December 7, 2022. Meeting held in Town Council Chambers. Also attending: Penny Asherman (CCLT), Bob Abbott (North Yarmouth) and Jamie Broder (Cumberland Housing Task Force).

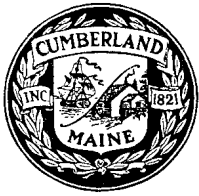
- November minutes were approved as written.
- Town Council report (Tig)
  - Hopefully new appointment to Trail Subcommittee be approved in Town Council’s December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Report on affordable house to be delivered on the 12<sup>th</sup> by the Cumberland Affordable Housing Task Force.
  - Chris mentioned that Public Works has been very busy with all the tree blowdowns in Knight’s Pond and at the Town Forest.
  - Chris also mentioned that a group comprised of members from Public Works, Trails and Forest subcommittees looked at the Wilderness Trails (red and white trails) on the Greely Rd side of Twin Brook to see what can be done about improving drainage; also review of DEP permit.



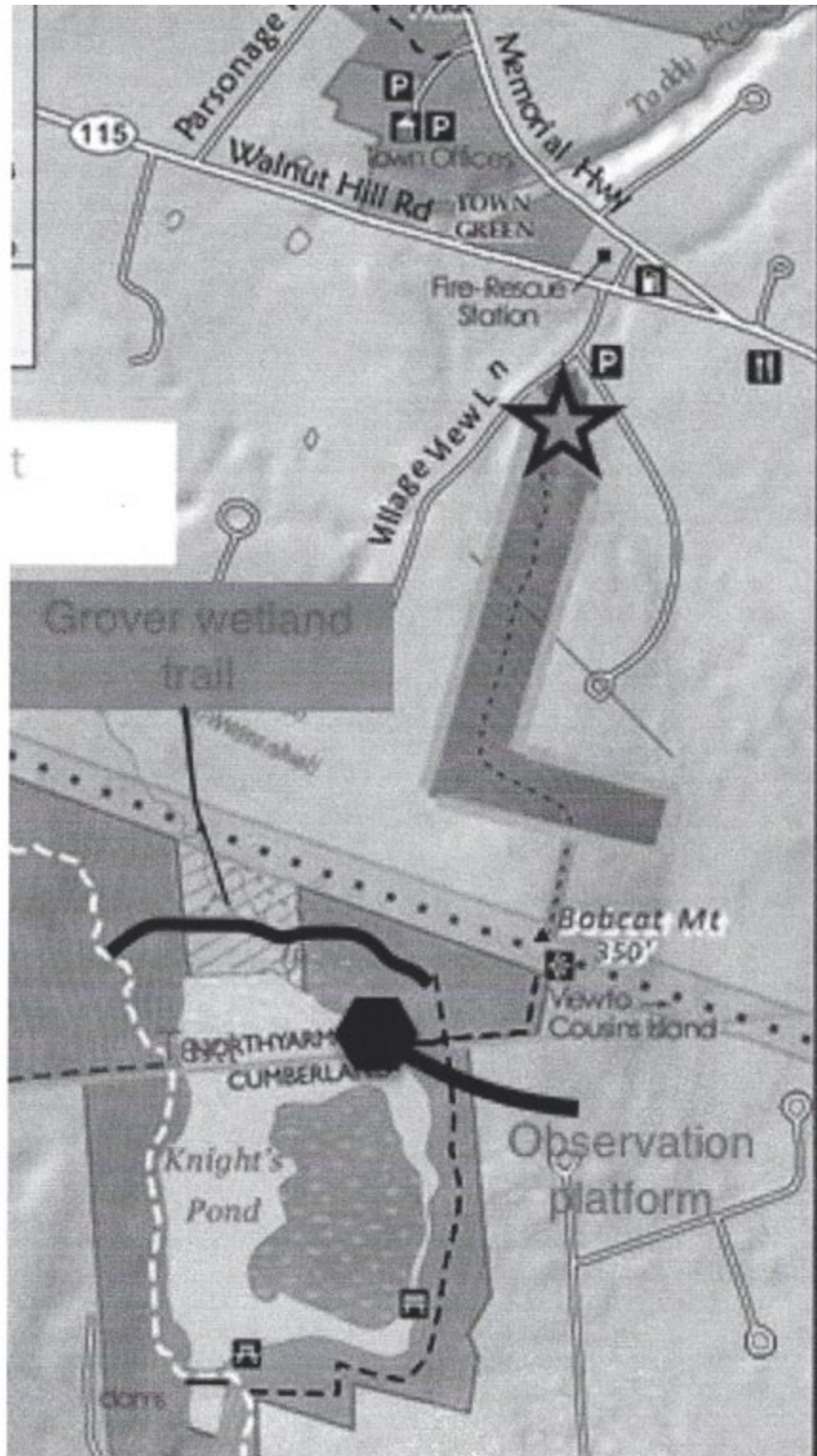
## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

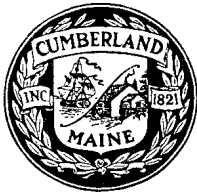
### ○ Bill Report

- During the month of November 2022 my office issued 26 permits for new buildings such as for pools, sheds, decks, houses, condos, barns, additions, renovations, commercial and solar installations.
- Oceanview phase 1 (Tuttle Rd) -completed or under construction 52-permits have been issued to date. All lots are reserved in phase 1.
- Oceanview phase 2- culverts are in place prior to 10-01-2022
- Christmas Creek – Vining Way -all under construction or completed
- Orchard Road – Cortland Court – 7 building permits issued as of this date
- Blanchard Oaks – Peaceful Way- all lots are under construction or completed
- Snowy Owl off Old Gray Road –10 Units approved
- The Mark off Route One– 45 units approved; site work started with blasting
- Ross Estates off Blanchard Road Ext.-3 Units approved
- Yarmouth Vet at Heritage Village
- The Grange at Longwoods-Building permit issued; work has started
- Planning Board meeting scheduled for December 20, 2022, will include:
  - Story Brothers Pit at West Cumberland off Goose Pond annual approval
  - Skillin’s Greenhouse at Gray Road new storage building 6,000sf +-
  - White Rock – 55 units of senior housing off Skyview Drive at Heritage Village, final with public hearing
  - Lot split of existing subdivision by amendment at 104 Foreside Road
- Future Planning Board items:
  - Rusty Lantern- Food Mart and new bank at Gray Road
  - Dave Chase Pit possible commercial / residential off Blackstrap Road
  - Skillin’s Greenhouse at Gray Road new storage building 6,000 sf +-
  - Major Site Plan amendment for LGC Clinical (previously Maine Std’s) ground mounted solar, just north of existing building at Route One near Powell Road
- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits
  - Heat pumps issued calendar YTD = 191
  - Solar issued calendar YTD = 054
  - Car Chargers issued calendar YTD = 009
- Bob Abbott from North Yarmouth gave an update on Knights Pond from North Yarmouth’s perspective. See map below. Bob described proposed access to the pond over newly acquired land. North Yarmouth will install a kiosk at the trail head and will be responsible for its content. Idea of an observation platform and a trail over a wetland area that neither town owns. Both the platform and trail should help control erosion by limiting foot traffic. There is already parking for the trail. Next steps? This is a joint venture between the North Yarmouth and Cumberland. It was also brought up about making the trail more accessible for people with disabilities.



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### ○ Commission (Mike)

- Hunting and trapping at Knight's Pond (Pete). Pete would like hunting and trapping to not be permitted at Knight's Pond; should be more of a family orientated park. Pete's motion:

I move to have the Cumberland Land Commission adopt a project with the goal of having hunting and trapping prohibited in and on Cumberland portions of Knight's Pond and its surroundings. This is for the protection of wildlife in, on and around the pond. Those on the project would define the area concerned and would study to understand how to go about whatever would have to be done to accomplish the goal. Findings and proposed actions would be reported regularly to the Commission for its consideration.

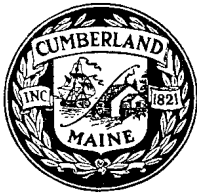
The motion was seconded by Denny.

#### Discussion on motion:

- Josh was curious as to Pete's prospective – concerned about families enjoying the pond or that drowning is cruel. Is this reflective of the management plan?
- Mike mentioned that hunting and trapping are permitted activities under the conservation easement in documents that govern Knight's Pond.
- Penny mentioned that the grant for Land for Maine's Future requires these activities be allowed. Legal agreement.
- Bob mentioned that this is the natural habitat for beaver and families like to see them in their habitat.
- Josh – want to encourage multiple uses for public lands.

Motion fails – 4 for, 5 against.

- Solar Farm MSAD51 (Denny) 2 projects:
  - The solar farm working group has completed a deal with Revision Energy for as many panels that will on the roof of the middle school.
  - Two megawatts ground mounted project on 10 acres of land in the center of town with land leased for 30 years. This will require working with CMP. Need to move forward on project.
- Lease town-owned land to small farmers (Denny) – as part of CAP2 goals, find several small 3 to 5-acre parcels of arable land available to small scale gardeners/farmers. Denny presented map of available land in town, enough to make each resident self-sufficient. Denny mentioned that developments using the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance will help protect farm lands in the future; siting Newell Ridge and Glenview as missed opportunities. Using the web soil survey, portions of five examples of Town land parcels were shown: Greely Woods, Rines Forest, Valley Rd (Homestead), Twin Brook (Greely Rd side), and the 12<sup>th</sup> green at Val Halla. Penny mentioned that the Reed Family Farm and Woods and the Longwoods Preserve are looking for farmers.
- Management Plans (Gordon) – Gordon made the following motion to approve the Rines Forest and Knight's Pond management plans:



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Move the management reports for Rines Forest and Knight's Pond be accepted by the Lands and Conservation Commission and that the Rines Forest plan be forwarded to the Town Council for its acceptance. I further move the Knight's Pond Management Report be forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee for its review and acceptance.

Riva seconded. Penny mentioned that the Land Trust needs to approve the Knight's Pond report and would like a curtesy copy of Rines Forest report. No discussion on the motion; vote passed unanimous.

The management reports can be found at:

### **Rines:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myn5chsrwmmnn8b/AACTE11JNODc\\_u61wfa1mKDsa/Rines%20Plan?dl=0&subfolder\\_nav\\_tracking=1](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myn5chsrwmmnn8b/AACTE11JNODc_u61wfa1mKDsa/Rines%20Plan?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1)

### **Knight's Pond:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myn5chsrwmmnn8b/AABQ9TGEWHZVUknfykqAzu9a/Knights%20Pond/Management%20Plan?dl=0&subfolder\\_nav\\_tracking=1](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myn5chsrwmmnn8b/AABQ9TGEWHZVUknfykqAzu9a/Knights%20Pond/Management%20Plan?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1)

- Community Development Block Grant (Riva) – Jamie Broder, chair of the Cumberland Housing Task Force Advisory Committee, spoke about ideas of where grant monies would be most useful. The task force will give recommendations to the Town Council on ways to facilitate creation of affordable housing. Jamie spoke about the Housing Authority that was created back in 1991 to support the Cumberland Meadows project, and the need to add more purpose to the Authority; needs to be more proactive and effective. Idea of seeking grant to support a new staffer to work with GPCOG and other entities to make recommendations to the Town Council on community development. Grant could be used as seed money for first year. Mike suggested that this person should be available for grant writing to further the aims of the Commission. The Cumberland County Community Development Office will be accepting Planning and Community Service applications with the final application due on January 19, 2023.
- Trails Subcommittee (John)
  - Maine DOT hosted a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ongoing efforts of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC). Anyone wishing to watch the presentation or provide comments concerning the possible use of this trail can do so through the RUAC website:  
<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/parac/meetings/index.shtml>  
<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ofps/ruac/parac/contact/index.shtml?fbclid=IwAR2tMefjUOWINa1qsiSktumyAvvr1vu-I8zb-CN9oPo38FGg0VmQAY7-kU>
  - Park maps, CCLT signs and brochure holders are now posted on the kiosks at Knight's Pond, Greely Woods (2), Rines Forest (2), Twin Brook (2) and the Town Forest (2). We





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are finalizing the other signs (“Welcome”, “Hunting”, and “Dogs”) and hope to have them posted in the next month or two. Andrew will be recognized for his efforts on building the kiosks at December 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.



- Knight's Pond
  - The trails are in relatively good shape despite the recent rain and wind. Public Work has been very responsive in removing trees that have fallen across the trails including a very large tree on the White Trail in Knight's Pond.
  - The beavers have been busy building a dam across the spillway of the pond causing water to flood the trail on the southeastern side of the pond. Public Works remove the beaver dam for now, but the beavers will likely return.
  - Brian has raised \$1500 from user groups to go toward 140-ft walkway on the Blue Trail.

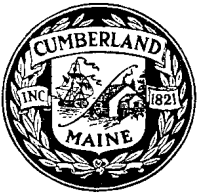


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- Greely Woods – The gravel hardening along a stretch of the Green Trail was completed in November. The need for additional hardening or walkways (Red Trail) will be evaluated in the spring.
- Rines Forest – Prior to the heavy rains, two raised gravel pathways were built across low areas that collect water and become very muddy on the White Trail. With the recent rains, the gravel is providing users with pathways across the wet and muddy areas. The Trail Subcommittee will be building a 12-ft walkway Saturday (10<sup>th</sup>) across a wet and increasingly muddy area on the Red/White trails between the parking lot and the Snowmobile Trail.





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- Twin Brook
  - The Town is looking into the possibility of improving the Wilderness Trails (the white and red trails). John, Bill, Chris, Ted Bosarge and Dan Diffen (SME) walked the trails Monday to begin to determine what is needed to upgrade them.
  - The latest draft of the ordinance establishing the Recreation Advisory Board no longer duplicates many of the responsibilities assigned to the LCC. The proposed ordinance will go before the Town Council's meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Forestry Subcommittee (Gordon)
  - Gordon questioned if there was any place for storage of documents such as surveys, management plans and associated data. Chris said that archiving is done through the library and that the management plans should be put online.
  - Subcommittee walked Area 1 and the Dog Trail of Twin Brook with Paul. Paul will write up a recommendation/summary. Possibly 5-10 cords of wood to harvest. Area 1 is relatively free of invasive plants, but the Dog Trail is pretty much saturated and impassible. This information will be included in Twin Brook Management Plan; inventory underway.
  - Gordon wanted to follow up with Denny and Riva about the setting aside of 225 acres of woodland until 2050 for carbon sequestration. Question if no cutting is to be done, then





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what do you do about invasive plants or infestation of insects? Looking for clarity.  
Revisit in January Forestry subcommittee meeting.

### ○ Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)

- No meeting in November.
- Community Resilience Partnership Grant – Denny announced that Cumberland received \$50,000 from the Community Resilience Partnership Grant. This money will be used for three projects:
  - EV mower for the Public Works department
  - VRF retrofit to heat Prince Memorial Library
  - Educate and outreach to residents on the benefits of sustainable landscaping

In the coming weeks, the Sustainable Subcommittee will develop a work plan for implementation of these projects.

- Grassland Management (Penny) – The Land Trust is toying with the Lawns Gone Wild idea 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.
- Invasives Subcommittee (Chris)
  - Several people in Public Works are working toward certification to be able to chemically treat the invasive plants. Need one more walk through the Town Forest before cut in August and then spray.
  - The community invasive group did a second cutting at the library and Public Works removed debris. The group met (for the last time until April 2023) to decide other areas to work on. It was decided that one more cutting should be done at the library to clear up the remains of the wild roses that are taking over the undergrowth.
- Farmland (Mike) – no update

Next meeting – January 4, 2023