



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: September 7, 2022

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

Chris Bolduc; Bill Longley ++; Mark Segrist+ ; Tig Filson+

To: Members:

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

Sustainability Subcommittee

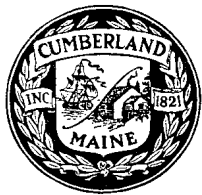
Sukie Curtis, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut

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

From: John Jensenius/Mike Schwindt

Re: Meeting September 7, 2022. Meeting held via Zoom.

- August minutes were approved as written.
- **Town Council** (Mark and Tig)
 - The Town Council and Planning Board will be holding a workshop on October 26th from 6 to 8 pm to discuss the implications of LD -2003. Commission members are invited to attend.
 - Mark highlighted a couple slides from the recently completed [Resident Survey](#). In particular, only 35% of respondents support for the acquisition of open space while 42% oppose open space acquisition (slide 43). Also, the majority of respondents favored several conservation and sustainability issues (slide 57).
 - Tig, Mike, and Bill Longley will be attending a Coastal Conference - A call to action – confronting rising seas and coastal erosion. September 27th 8:30 – 4pm Ferry Beach Conference Center.
- **Town** (Bill L and Chris)
 - Bill report:
 - During the months of August 2022, 46 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; 49 permits (of the 53 lots) have been issued.



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- Oceanview Phase II – tree clearing has begun
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; 19 permits (of the 22 lots) have been issued.
 - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – 7 building permits (of the 10 lots) have been issued.
 - Blanchard Oaks – Peaceful Way – 13 building permits issued and all 13 lots have been sold.
 - Ross Estates – 0 permits (of the 3 lots) have been issued
 - Planning Board meeting scheduled for September 20th, 2022 will include:
 - Final major subdivision for Snowy Owl (formerly Evergreen Estates) off Old Gray Road to include 10 units (condominiums) in five duplexes on 5.69 acres.
 - Site Plan Review – Yarmouth Veterinary Center at Lot #4, Heritage Village
 - Sketch Plan White Rock Terrace – 55 units of senior housing at Lot #7, Heritage Village
 - Setback change in VCC from 45 feet to 25 feet for the front setback to allow construction closer to the road.
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 - Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - Major-Site Plan amendment for LGC Clinical Diagnostics new solar.
 - Rusty Lantern and bank at Gray Road
 - Dave Chase pit – possible commercial/residential development off Blackstrap Road
 - Heat pumps permits issued calendar YTD = 136
 - Solar permits issued calendar YTD = 40
 - Car Chargers in YTD = 9
 - Riva asked if it was possible to show trends – how many permits issued over time.
- Chris highlighted the Town's quick response to reports of possible toxic blue-green algae. The reports first surfaced on a Facebook post on Saturday, August 27th. The Town received notification on Sunday the 28th. Water tests were conducted at 9 locations in or near Twin Brook with additional tests at Knight's Pond on Monday the 29th and signs were posted at all parks later that day. In addition, Maine DEP and Maine Department of Agriculture were contacted. DEP also conducted water testing. All of the tests for sites in Twin Brook and Knight's Pond came back negative for the toxin. The Town plans to conduct more tests toward the end of September and will budget money in future years for water testing at the parks in case testing is needed.
 - Public Works did some additional invasives cutting in the Town Forest. Three employees from Val Halla have been trained for spraying and are ready to be tested. Unfortunately, State tests will not be available until October which will limit their ability to spray this year.
 - Public works cleaned up some of the piping near the butterfly garden.



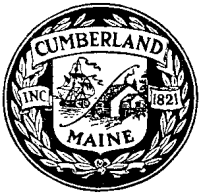
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○ **Commission (Mike)**

- Recommendations for Recreational Trails Subcommittee Appointments – John moved (Gordon seconded) to recommend to the Town Council the appointments of Adam Orellana, Walker Newell, and David Grimm to the Recreational Trails Subcommittee – Motion passed unanimously.
- Recommendations for Sustainability Subcommittee Appointments – Denny moved (Riva seconded) to recommend the LCC appoint of David Witherill and Meredith Smith to the Sustainability Subcommittee – Motion passed unanimously.
- Invasive Species Plan Grant – Gordon moved (John seconded) to recommend the Town Council accept \$1850 in grants to three invasive species plans for Rines Forest, the Town Forest, and Twin Brook.
- The LCC Annual Report was turned in to the Town prior to the August 30 deadline. Mike thanked everyone who contributed to the effort.
- Town Orchard - Mike will be going to the University Extension facility in Monmouth to gather information on the types, varieties and sources of fruit and nut trees to be planted in the upcoming community orchard. He is also looking for interested people willing to help develop the orchard. Our budget includes funding for the acquisition of plants.

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

- Community Survey - John highlighted the community support for trails based on the recently completed [Resident Survey](#). In particular, the Town's trails were the highest rated recreational facility in terms of community use. In terms of Town funding, 89% of respondents favored funding for the trails with only 2% opposing trail funding. In addition, 60% of respondents favored developing additional pedestrian and bike trails.
- Park Kiosks – The Boy Scout continues to working on the six kiosks for his Eagle Scout project. The Town Public Works Department recently dug the holes for the posts and will assist the scout with setting the posts in concrete and assembling the kiosks.
- Park Kiosks Maps – Final electronic versions of the kiosk maps for Twin Brook, Rines Forest, Knight's Pond, Greely Woods, and the Town Forest are expected to be delivered to the Town shortly. Once the electronic versions are delivered, John will work with the Town to have the kiosk maps made and put up on the kiosks.
- LCC and Park Web Pages – John met with Whitney concerning 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. As yet, no changes to the web pages have been made. John plans to meet again with Whitney this month.
- Knights Pond – The re-route of the White Trail on the northwest side of the pond is now complete and the old trail has been closed. North Yarmouth has also rerouted the adjoining section of the White Trail that was close to the pond. Large "Trail Closed" signs have been placed at either end of the closed sections in Cumberland and North Yarmouth. Three spurs off



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the new trail were created so people can access areas with views of the pond. Small trail closed signs were placed on the old trail either side of the viewing areas. In addition, debris was dragged over the old trail to discourage its use. Over 200-hours of volunteer time went into building the new trail. Thanks to Brian Stearns for leading the effort and to all the volunteers from the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, the Royal River Conservation Trust, and the community for helping with this effort. John will meet with Gordon later this month to discuss options for eliminating/controlling a small area of buckthorn near one of the viewing areas.

Knights Pond White Trail Closure



- Greely Woods – Work is continuing on hardening wet or soft areas of the trail.
- Rines Forest – The subcommittee is planning to build a 220-ft walkway near the Di Vinci bridge this fall. The Town had been considering improving the woods road which was very wet, muddy and rooty, but now prefers the walkway. The proposed location of the walkway has been flagged. The Trails Subcommittee continues to review plans for fall improvements to other trails in Rines Forest.
- **Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Gordon)**
 - Invasive Grants - The Town was awarded three grants totaling \$1850 for invasive species management pending Town Council acceptance. The grant money is for the period of May to October, 2022, but hopefully the timeline can be extended given the late approval date. The subcommittee may also look into a Canopy grant for invasive treatment.
 - Twin Brook Harvest - The Subcommittee had a workshop with the Town Council, Paul Larrivee, and Jeff Storey to discuss the subcommittees memorandum and the Paul's recommendation to



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suspend the timber harvest at Twin Brook. A Town Council vote is expected September 12th. Paul is expected to start a timber inventory soon.

- **Signage** – The subcommittee is looking into the process of creating signage. As a first step, the subcommittee plans to develop signage to explain the efforts to control invasive species at the Town Forest. Another sign will be created for the future timber harvesting in Rines Forest. Finally, the subcommittee is considering the idea of signage explaining the Town's Guiding Principles for Forestry Management, possibly to be placed on the new park kiosks.
- **Erosion** – Gordon will be contacting the town-recommended engineer to schedule a call with Chris B and Paul Larrivee to discuss options for remediation for the area near the end of Greely Road Extension.
- **Rines Forest Invasives** – Gordon is organizing a group effort with Unum (organized by Jonathan Dawson/CCLT) to help control invasives at Rines Forest scheduled for Monday September 12th from 12 to 3 pm. Others are welcome to join if they are available. He will also organize additional days this fall for a couple other groups interested in helping with this effort.

○ **Sustainability Subcommittee (Riva/Denny)**

- **Food Composting Project** – Riva and Bill continue to work on the food composting effort. Bill has designated an area that could be used for wood waste/composting near the salt shed. There are two possible sources of food waste – Garbage-to-Garden and allowing Cumberland residents to drop off food waste for free. The waste would be mixed with horse manure – which is already being brought in from the fair grounds. Riva has been in contact with Garbage to Garden but her contact has not been responsive lately. The subcommittee plans to write a \$40,000 EPA grant proposal for additional help with the project
- **New Primary School** - The subcommittee would like to engage more fully with those in charge of the new primary school project in order to maximize net zero features in the design. There will be a public information session on September 27.
- **Grant Requests** - The subcommittee will be requesting the following grants from the Community Resilience Partnership
 - \$10,000 for engineering analysis to retrofit the Library with heat pumps
 - \$30,000 for an EV mower for Public Works
 - \$10,000 for education and plant material for homeowners who implement sustainable landscaping.
- In the coming months the Subcommittee should communicate/educate citizens how to access the financial benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act - e.g., \$600 income tax credit for electric panel upgrades. Information items could be included in the Crier.

○ **Invasive plants (Mike)**



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- We have been in contact with the State to schedule a training session on “ImapInvasive”, the software used to track invasives by a number of states. Due to staff issues, no one was working in that area but Catherine Spolarich was recently assigned. We are waiting for her to contact us as to the training possibilities yet this fall. Additionally, an ad hoc group of Cumberland and NY individuals have been looking at the invasives around the Library and Town Hall. They will also be participating in a Rines Forest cutting next week.
- **Farmland assessment (Mike)**
 - We have recommended the use of NRCS soils data for the criteria to be used on defining lands to be set aside under the conservation subdivision ordinance. Implementation now rests with the Town Council. We will also soon be doing soil samples in the area by the BFG where the orchard is scheduled to go.
- Next meeting October 5th - 7:00 PM in person or Zoom TBD.