

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: February 16, 2013 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++
To: CTL&CC members: Brad Hilton Brian Restuccia
Penny Asherman Ellen Hoffman *Sam York
Ted Chadbourne (late) Jon Jennings + (new) David Young (abs)
Tom Gruber + Bill Mullin

From: Ellen Hoffman
Re: Meeting February 6th, 2013

- Minutes from December meeting were approved.
- Minutes from January meeting were approved with some minor clarifications.
- New Member David Holman had to resign since he moved to North Yarmouth.
- Follow-up on Sue Ellen Bardwell and Andrew Faveru from Yarmouth visit(re: bike path connectivity between Yarmouth and Cumberland); TG read memo from Bill Shane (dated January 31, 2013) discussing Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, saying Town of Cumberland strongly supports all efforts to improve regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between the 5 towns north of Portland.
- Land's Committee budget: Sam will submit a formal request to Bill Shane and cc Tom G. Need to make annual request for funding (\$20,000) to combat invasive species in Town's open space parcels. Needs to be submitted by March. Brian R suggested a grass roots effort to help eradicate invasive species and improve trails. Need money for maintenance, signs and invasive species control; wait on how to implement until after logging. Bill M mentioned possible grant through Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.
- New England cottontail – state endangered species. Looking for evidence of NEC north of Portland. Last survey over 5 years ago. Most of us have been out several times to survey parcels.
- Town Forest – Sam explained project to new members; documented current conditions, explained need to cut this year to satisfy grant. Bill Shane and Chris Bolduc (Public Works director) have been in touch with Jay Braunscheidel (town forester). Issue of where will landing be – conflict with Town Village. When will cutting start. Also problem with Town Forest trail no longer circular due to repurposing Drowne Road School. Sam will check with Jay on what areas will be cut, make sure we are still in agreement.
- Mr. Paynter's property on Knight's Pond – no update
- Rines Forest activity – no update
- Blueberry Hill logging – no update
- Foreclosed properties. Brad Hilton attended meeting reviewing foreclosure list. Presented a map at our meeting of trails from his property connecting over 2 town owned properties on list. Trails would connect Blanchard Rd to Greely Rd.

- Vernal pool – currently stalled. Sally Stockwell and Penny drafted a letter explaining the process the Town went through to get landowner permission to survey their property for vernal pools. Letter was sent to Bill for approval and then will go to state. Once state receives letter, IFW will review our results. At some point will contact property owners letting them know which vernal pools were deemed significant. Possibly do follow-up article in Forecaster.
- Draft aquifer ordinance in the works – update?
- Invasive species grant search – wait until spring. Need \$\$ for trail maintenance as well.
- Sam brought up issue if we have enough land in conservation. Discussion around how much land should be conserved. Off tax rolls or in conservation easement. Balancing act. Does this fit our overall goal? Look at Comprehensive Plan. Benchmark with neighboring communities. TG will get comparative report. Use as guiding principal. Issues of habitat corridors, recreation or school use. Move to a sub-committee.
- Continuing projects/goals for 2013:
 - Invasive species education – Bob Bittenbender was unable to do presentation this fall so try and schedule something for April 16-May 16 2013 (both indoors and out). Sam will contact him. Need to commit to date. Bill M also mentioned invasive insects. Perhaps have someone from Cooperative Extension give presentation to town.
 - Educational site walk of Rines Forest scheduled for September 29th 2013 (1:00) with the Maine Tree Club. Sam will confirm this with Amy Witt.
 - Update Trail Guide. Sam will contact Brian Sterns to see status of trail system. No more info about trail to connect Falmouth trail with Rines Forest. Penny mentioned Norcross Foundation had grants to upgrade field equipment. Get GPS units to help map trails. Sam will remind Bill Shane about GPS.
 - See what projects other towns are taking on. Also look into what is happening through Maine Conservation Commissions. Sam will forward any info he receives. TG spoke with Steve Palmer chair of North Yarmouth Selectmen. Discussed some common issues (invasive species – funding to combat, grants and education, and connection of trails) and possibly work jointly on these issues. Connectivity – natural resources wildlife habitat.
- **Next meeting March 6th 7:00**