

Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission

(Oversight Committee)

Date: May 6, 2017

(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.; ^(T) = trails SC; ^(F) = forest SC)

Bill Shane++ (abs); Tom Gruber +; Peter Bingham+

To: CTL&CC members:

Ellen Hoffman ^(F) Ted Chadbourne ^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee (abs)

Susan Nolde (abs) ^(F) Warren Graumann (abs) ^(T) John Jensenius

Mike Schwindt ^(F) Tim Nastro (abs) ^(T) Shawn McBairty

*Sam York ^(F) Sally Stockwell (abs) ^(T) Paul Weiss

David Young ^(F) Judith Wohl (abs)

Note: Only members of the Oversight Committee are expected to attend.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting May 3 2017

- April minutes were approved as written.
- Bill report – issue came up about clear cutting lots before development. Bill said there are no restrictions in Cumberland against this, although it is highly discouraged. Other towns have various degrees of restrictions. Some require trees of a certain diameter to be designated on plans. Idea mentioned to possibly add into conservation subdivision ordinance.
- Trail Subcommittee (Paul)
 - Greely Woods Trail -Paperwork for easements sent to landowners – Ruth Hall (Range Rd), Stephen Neal (Greely Rd Ext.), and Pandolfo (Crystal Ln).
 - Greely Woods trail – Brad Hilton gave the Town six months to come up with a conservation easement over town properties on Greely Rd and he would give the Town a written easement over his property to connect trails. The six months began in November 2016. Bill said this is nearing completion.
 - Easement on property –deduction of value of property – small reduction of property value. Town gift letter in exchange. Town assumes liability. It was suggested coming up with an easement template for consistency. Varying levels of liability with easements. Bill will work with insurance company. Easements will go with property in perpetuity, explicitly stated in easement.
 - Rines Forest walk-through Sat 2:00 (rain or shine). Try and determine best route through as part of the Cross Cumberland Network. Paul also got verbal permission to cross over Fred Kinney property to get to the Rines Forest. Paul will also walk with Dale Rines for trail as another entryway into the forest. Need to coordinate with Penny of the Land Trust regarding placement of Cumberland universal sign and Cross Cumberland Network sign.

- Paul will research cut-through trail from Farwell Ave to Middle School. Ellen will try and get contact information of Mary Wright (property owner as of last year).
 - Idea of trail stewards – adapt a trail. Help keep an eye on trails for unsafe conditions or when clean-up is needed.
 - Mentioned that Dale Rines has a 50 acre parcel that abuts the Rines Forest he is considering selling. Property has snowmobile and other trails.
 - Create ad hoc committee to look at properties in town (idea of right of first refusal). Need to be prepared if a property comes on the market. Categories properties for their importance; determine selection parameters such as location/proximity to other properties, vistas, trails, size etc. Map of properties and property sizes was distributed. Committee members: Ted, Paul, John, David, Sam.
- Town Forest (Mike and Ellen)
 - Butterfly garden – Mike and Ellen planted a few plants and staked out dimensions of garden. Decided to divide it into two sections instead of one so the mower can get through. Public works will pick plants up this week from Mike's house and deliver to Town Forest. They will also deliver all the cardboard that will be used as weed blocker around the plants (under the mulch/compost). Two loads of mulch/compost will be delivered at some point. We are hoping that a bench from the original Town Forest trail could be moved over to the garden for us.
 - Cut back some of the overhanging limbs and downed trees along the railroad trail.
 - It was mentioned that improvements need to be made to either the trail leading to the bridge at M3 (too many roots to safely walk and impossible to get a wheelbarrow through) or the bridge needs to be improved upon at M4 (gaps in bridge, hard to get a wheelbarrow over – trail is in good shape). Also, there really needs to be improvement in the culvert or the trail over the culvert needs to be shored up.
 - Bill will send Mike and Ellen a preliminary map showing, trails, trail names, markers (original markers), benches, bridges and butterfly garden location, for us to review. This will be used as the new map at the kiosk. Bill already has the verbiage that will go next to the map (replacing what is currently there). This map will also be what is printed out and online replacing the outdated one.
 - Nature Trail – is on hold for the time being so we can get the butterfly garden planted. Sam suggested that Sue Nolde could look at grants for markers for the Nature Trail. Mike will contact her to give her the info needed.
 - Bill, Mike and Ellen need to walk the Town Forest again to decide where and what additional signage should be added. If you enter the Town Forest in the reverse direction (heading towards the ball fields) or start at the Village Green or use the Storyboard cut-through, it can be confusing where the trail

leads. Destination and possibly distances could be displayed in key spots. Need the Cumberland Trail logo at the Village Green entrance. Bill suggested we should look at the signage in Knights Pond for ideas.

- Forest Subcommittee – July meeting will have a presentation by Forest Bell discussing invasive species in the forest, and next steps. Bill will take care of organizing.
- **Next meeting June 7th 7:30 pm**