



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: December 8, 2018

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

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

To: Members:

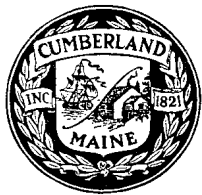
Jenn Grasso	^(F) Ted Chadbourne	^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee
Ellen Hoffman	^(F) Denny Gallaudet ✓	^(T) Steven Fitzgerald
John Jensenius vice*	^(F) Gordon Lichter	^(T) John Jensenius ✓
Steven Knowles	^(F) Tim Nastro	^(T) Matthew Leclair ✓
*Mike Schwindt	^(F) Linda Putnam ✓	^(T) Shawn McBreairty
Jennifer Taylor	^(F) Timothy Schneider	
David Young	^(F) Sally Stockwell	
Sam York	^(F) Eli Wilson	

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

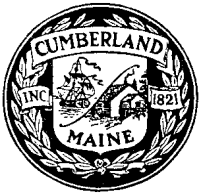
Re: Meeting December 5, 2018

- November’s minutes were approved.
- Paul Weiss resigned.
- Mike reminded the attendees that only members of the Commission (“formerly” the Oversight Committee) and the representative of each subcommittee can vote.
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report: Bill absent, no update
 - Town Forest Trails and Nature Trail (Mike and Ellen):
 - All directional/distance signs have been put up (including the three that were modified).
 - Vernal pool info sign put up.
 - All plants with ID markers low to the ground as well as some seedlings were marked for the winter with stakes.
 - The two plants near the bridge were tagged and the area around one other trees was cleaned up.
 - All remaining ID tags for duplicates were removed.
 - To-do
 - Need kiosk at the Drowne Rd entrance.
 - Waiting on remaining ID tags from original order.
 - Waiting on off trail indicator signs for the ½ dozen or so plants not clearly visible from trail.
 - In spring we will make final pass through and get updated map to put online
 - Update info for Maine Trail Finders
 - BFG – Snow fence needs to be attached to stakes.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- To-do
 - Spring put up some birdhouses, and possibly a bench
- Val Halla – Mike and Ellen
 - Operation Pollinator/Monarchs in the Rough – no update until spring.
- Land Identification (Dave) – The purpose is to identify the best parcels within the town if the properties become available. The previously established criteria along with some improvement suggestions for the matrix that was to be used to rate the parcels, were on Paul's computer. Will need to see if that information can be retrieved. Plots to be used to test criteria are to be limited to Town owned properties.
- Limiting number of building permits (Mike) – This is outside of this committee's purview.
 - Discussion ensued about how the town has changed since the last Comprehensive Plan. And that it would be useful to have information on the number of acres that have been converted to residential, subdivision or senior housing or land preserved since that time.
 - Peter suggested that this committee should request that the Town compile this information. Could prove very useful in the future for research and planning purposes. He also mentioned the Town's use of growth areas to encourage smaller lots in these areas, and other tools such as conservation subdivision to reduce sprawl. This committee should decide what questions we want answered.
 - Useful to update the Open Space Plan (last version April 2000).
 - Suggested that Carla (Town Planner) come to a meeting and discuss zoning.
- Invasive species (Sam)
 - Sam gave brief introduction of purpose of subcommittee for new comers, with focus on what needs to be done with intention to control – not eradicate. Trying to establish a center of competence. Hopefully have joint meeting in spring with the towns of Falmouth and Yarmouth (and land trusts).
 - Sam mentioned that the project of the Greely senior was proceeding. She is now concentrating her efforts on Japanese Knotweed. She will probably do a presentation to this group prior to a school presentation.
- Trails Subcommittee (John)
 - Paul resigned; John has agreed to take over as chair for that subcommittee. Noted that the subcommittee could use more members.
 - John reported that 95% of the snowmobile signs are out on the trails.
 - OceanView (Cumberland Crossing) – snow mobile club working on a few bridges. Still waiting on info about potential for rerouting trail.
 - Greely Woods – Brad (who owns trails around Tubby's Pond) said it was OK to put up trail signs. Not great for XC skiing because of the stream crossing ("bridges" are logs). Still need



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

easement from several land owners. Needs signs and map. John will find out if OK for public to walk on Peter Godsoe's property.

- John will draft a letter to large landowners seeking interest in allowing a trail over their property. Asked if he could use list that Bill had used to notify larger property owners about the informational night the Town is hosting.
- Christmas Creek (Vine property) – Will trails be public and easily accessible? - no update
- Rines Forest –No update
- Loop Trail at Broad Cove – No update.
- Ellen mentioned a sign posted on the snow mobile trail through Val Halla. The (professional looking) sign advertised trail services available from this trail. Mentioned Rachael's that supported the trail.
- Sally, distributed via email earlier in the week, a draft letter to be presented to the Town Council urging the approval of purchasing the final 52 acres of the Rines Forest. All approved of the letter and thought it was very well written and to the point. The vote for approval is Monday (12/10) evening. Unanimous vote by Commission recommend Council acquire the 52 acres.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
 - Christmas Creek subdivision – need variance because dead end road too long (want to build two more house lots). Proposed trail connection to Wilderness Trail of Twin Brook, would go through open space through easements (wet). Would this be open to the public? Issue should be addressed now while still in planning phase. Question whether the 15 acres of open space be managed by the adapted guiding principles. Open space owned by landowners' association.
 - Buckthorn control in Rines - trial plots – project got snowed out. Denny mentioned there needs to be a professional applicator when applying chemicals on Town Property.
 - Date for informational presentation set for January 30th (Wednesday) 6:00- 8:00pm. Openhouse, directed at land owners with large acreage, but also open to the public. Info panel/ discussion with experts. Topics such as forest management ideas, conservation easements, tree growth, managing forest for Maine birds. Experts such as private forestry consultant, district forester, and land trust representative. John will also speak about trails. Sally will be the moderator. Televised.
- New Business
 - Assessing the risk of pesticides and herbicides
 - (Jenn G) – mentioned other towns are banning the use of pesticides and herbicides on private property. Issues of jurisdiction. Questions arose about applications on apple orchards and Val Halla and Twin Brook. This was tried in Cumberland in the past. Tom G will look into previous attempts at banning. Tentative presentation at January meeting.
 - (Jennifer T)- Quantitative risk of using herbicides to control buckthorn and the brown tail moth. Should do a quantitative risk assessment. EPA published risk assessments. Need



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

to balance exposure, effectiveness and risk. Need to keep records to know how much causes what harm. It was suggested that a presentation would be most helpful in understand this.

- (Jenn G) Educational component – outreach. Suggested maybe summarize either meeting or what we are currently working on and put in Crier. It was mentioned that Eliza will do that actual write-up and submit to Crier, just need to get information to Eliza at the Town Hall. Ellen mentioned that maybe Jenn G would be a good candidate to take over the Arbor Day presentation in the schools. Arranging to get the seedlings and time in the classrooms (4/5th grades) needs to start soon.
- Next meeting January 2nd 7:30 pm