



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: February 10, 2019

(\* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.; <sup>(T)</sup> = trails SC; <sup>(F)</sup> = forest SC)

Bill Shane ++; Tom Gruber +; Peter Bingham +

To: Members:

Jenn Grasso David Young

Ellen Hoffman Sam York

John Jensenius vice\*

Steven Knowles

\*Mike Schwindt

Jennifer Taylor (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> Ted Chadbourne ✓

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

<sup>(F)</sup> Denny Gallaudet✓

<sup>(F)</sup> Rhonda Grigg

<sup>(F)</sup> Gordon Lichter ✓

<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam ✓

<sup>(F)</sup> Timothy Schneider

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

<sup>(T)</sup> Rachael Becker McEntee

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

<sup>(T)</sup> Peter Garsoe ✓

<sup>(T)</sup> \*John Jensenius ✓

<sup>(T)</sup> Matthew Leclair

<sup>(T)</sup> Shawn McBreairty

<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell ✓

**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 February 6, 2019

- January’s minutes were approved as written.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report:
    - Bill mentioned that the information for items going in front of the Planning Board is available three weeks prior on the Town’s website.
    - Planning Board (February 19th)
      - Public Hearing: Sketch plan review for Phase 2 retirement community for Cumberland Crossing (OceanView at Cumberland). 500 foot “no touch zone” – all farm structures stay as they are (on the outside) in perpetuity. Inside options to repurpose. Phase I Doane property – permissive use to the trails (no nighttime activity). Link up to Val Halla and Crossing Brook trails. Private road.
      - Public Hearing: Preliminary Review for Christmas Creek 20 lot Major Subdivision. Public road – trail connection to Twin Brook – back section. Trail will likely be a four-foot wide mixture of bark mulch/wood chips. Denny mentioned that he had already submitted comments to Town Planner after site walk. Issues:
        - Trail along open space – area wet. Why open space not larger?
        - The forest should be managed by the Forest Subcommittee’s guiding principal.
        - Road is a dead end. Mentioned shouldn’t give variance for extra lots.



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- John mentioned that we should ask for trail easements. Trails already exist near road.
  - Hazelton property at 199 Middle Rd. Add building for boat storage. Denny said no comments submitted for this project.
- Brown Tail Moth: Bill mentioned that Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> is brown tail moth citizen scientist day at the Town Hall. Members of the community are invited to attend training and then “tour” the town observing brown tail moth nests.
- Mike mentioned that the Conservation Subdivision option (where 50% of the land in a subdivision development needs to be in open space), will go before the Planning Board at their February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as recommended by the Town Council. The Town Council has scheduled a public hearing for 2/25 on the ordinance.
- Town Forest Trails and Nature Trail (Mike and Ellen): No update
  - To do:
    - Need kiosk at the Drowne Rd entrance.
    - Talked about moving the Drown Rd entrance up the hill to the existing driveway and path. Currently the official entrance is down a hill and difficult to see and to get to, especially in winter, because of the hill. The area next to the driveway has knotweed that would need to be cleaned up (and area flattened) if kiosk to be installed there.
    - Old marker post 8 and 9 need to be removed.
    - In spring we will make final pass through and get updated map to put online
    - Update info for Maine Trail Finders.
- BFG – (Mike and Ellen): No update
  - To-do
    - Spring put up some birdhouses, and possibly a bench
- Val Halla – (Mike and Ellen): No update
  - Operation Pollinator/Monarchs in the Rough – no update until spring. Will touch base with Toby mid to late winter to discuss next steps.
- Land Identification (Dave) – The purpose is to identify the best parcels within the town if the properties become available. Currently working on establishing criteria on how to rate properties and doing test ranking on Town properties. So far matrix looks pretty accurate.
- Invasive plant species (Sam): No update
- Trails Subcommittee (John)
  - Steve Moriarty (member of Planning Board) came to their meeting to discuss procedure for providing input regarding trails to Planning Board.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
  - Debriefed Woodland Landowner Open House. Good turnout. Maybe have annually?



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- New Business
  - Projects/ideas for 2019
    - Trails (list from John)
      - Ensure trail connections on Cumberland Crossing Phase 1 trails including the snowmobile trail
      - Provide input on trails for Phase 2 of Cumberland Crossing subdivision
      - Ensure trail connections (and possible easement) on Christmas Creek subdivision trails
      - Finalize conservation easement on Town-owned Greely Woods properties.
      - Finalize public easements on several private properties that connect to Greely Woods.
      - Talk with landowners about the possibility of marking additional trails that could connect with Greely Woods.
      - Investigate the possibility of rerouting a section of the “pedestrian” trail at the northwest end of Blanchard Road and Greely Road Extension.
      - Develop and post trail signs at roadway entrances
      - Develop maps for trails
      - Create/enhance trail information on Town web site
      - Determine need for signs/markers indicating private/public property
      - Work with snowmobile club to revamp the Blanchard Road to Route 100 powerline trail.
      - Work with snowmobile club to fix two bridges across the Piscataquis River
    - Forest Subcommittee – no info
    - Commission (meeting to discuss – date TBD)
  - Greely Woods Easement – Bill mentioned that the Commission should let the Town Council know that we are interested in being involved. John said that he is doing a walk thru with the Land Trust on February 20<sup>th</sup> (no time given).
  - Open Space Plan – Mike questioned if there was value in updating or replacing the Plan. Bill suggested coming up with a list of objectives and have a workshop with the council. Maybe dovetail with the parcel list Dave’s committee is working on. Objectives, properties, stewardship, how to we manage properties. Mike suggested that this should have a larger Town representation, not just this committee. Connectivity with existing Town open space.
  - Conservation Subdivision – vote upcoming to modify ordinance for projects in RR1 or RR2 that are not in special designated areas (like contract zoning). Need to know what pieces of the property we are trying to protect.
  - Peter G commented that the Town has done a good job of preserving the feel of the Town trails – but there has been no comment of the effects on animal populations – wildlife. The trails allow a constant flow of people through the woods. What about leaving open space just as open space?
- Next meeting March 6, 7:30 pm