

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: March 9, 2019

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

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

To: Members:

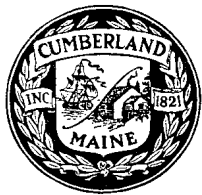
Jenn Grasso	David Young	<sup>(F)</sup> Ted Chadbourne	<sup>(F)</sup> Timothy Schneider	<sup>(T)</sup> Rachael Becker McEntee
Ellen Hoffman	Sam York (abs)	<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott	<sup>(F)</sup> *Sally Stockwell ✓	<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald ✓
John Jensenius vice*		<sup>(F)</sup> Denny Gallaudet		<sup>(T)</sup> Peter Garsoe ✓
Steven Knowles		<sup>(F)</sup> Rhonda Grigg		<sup>(T)</sup> *John Jensenius ✓
*Mike Schwindt		<sup>(F)</sup> Gordon Lichter		<sup>(T)</sup> Matthew Leclair ✓
Jennifer Taylor (abs)		<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam ✓		<sup>(T)</sup> Shawn McBreaity
				<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 March 6, 2019

- February’s minutes were approved with minor adjustments to committee assignments.
- George Turner in attendance.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report:
    - Planning Board (March 19th)
      - Presentation on proposed five-year capital improvement plan for fiscal years 2020-2025.
      - Review of the Growth Management Ordinance (periodic review by the Planning Board). Presentation on recommendation by the Town Staff that there be no changes to the current ordinance. Currently allow for growth permits of 65 new homes and 7 Habitat homes/year. Can borrow 10 permits from previous or next year to allow for 85 permits. Note, homes designated for 55 and older are exempt from the growth permit count. Average 40 homes/year. Matt questioned if we should reduce number of permits to preserve open space. Bill mentioned that the town has purchased a large amount of open space in the past few years, and that growth helps offset tax increases. The number of growth permits can only be changed by Town Council, Planning Board or by a citizen’s initiative. Growth Management Plan needs to be updated at least every three years.



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- Town Council (March 11th)
  - Set a public hearing date of March 25<sup>th</sup> to consider and act on sending an application to the Planning Board for new compost, brush facility and salt shed to be located on Greely Road near the railroad tracks.
- The Commission met last month to decide on possible projects for the coming year. The Commission met again after the regular meeting to finalize. The following is a recap:
  - Town Forest and Town Forest Nature Trail (Mike and Ellen)
    - Finish rest of ID signs
    - Verify location of signs
    - Update map and put online
    - Update Maine Trail Finders
    - Look into showcasing plant (or feature) of the month (or season)
    - Need kiosk at Drowne Rd entrance
    - Remove old markers 8 and 9.
    - Schedule an “open house” when nature trail complete
  - Butterfly Garden (Mike and Ellen)
    - Install bench (how thank or recognize Foreside Garden Club?)
    - Install sundial
    - Put up bat/birdhouses
    - Clean up around vernal pool
    - Look into Backyard Habitat certification
    - Weed!
  - Val Halla Projects (Mike and Ellen)
    - Operation Pollinator (plant sunflowers)
    - Tree Nursery (create new seed nursery by sod area)
    - Trees along cart path (replace where needed)
    - Monarchs in the Rough (?)
  - Invasive species (Sam)
    - Joint meeting with neighboring towns
    - Senior project presentation
  - Land Identification (Dave, John, Mike, and Sam)
    - Finish matrix
  - Open Space Plan update (Dave, Jennifer, and Steve)
  - Land Survey (Dave)
  - Grants (Jenn)
  - Planning Board (Jenn, John, and Denny)
    - Review projects
  - Liaison with CCLT (John)
  - Educational projects (Steve)
  - Earth Day (Jenn and Steve)
    - Celebrate in lieu of Arbor Day. Give flowers instead of tree plugs.
  - Trail website (Steve and Ellen)
    - Verify digitized trails are correct
    - Acquire trail/open space meta data, attributes, property overview or history



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- Map location of trails/open space area with hyperlinks on a map of Cumberland (similar to Falmouth)
  - Pesticides/Herbicides (Jenn and Jennifer)
  - Maine Conservation Commission (Sam)
- Town Forest Trails and Nature Trail (Mike and Ellen):
  - Mike noted that the Foreside Garden club has appropriated \$1000 for two benches, bird and bat houses for the Town Forest and BFG.
  - To do (see project list)
- BFG – (Mike and Ellen): No update
  - To-do (see project list)
- Val Halla – (Mike and Ellen):
  - Met with Toby to discuss upcoming projects (see project list). Need to wait until spring before proceeding.
- Land Identification (Dave) – Distributed handout of draft version of the matrix and results using several Town properties. Requested feedback by next meeting.
- Invasive plant species (Sam): No update
- Trails Subcommittee (John)
  - Greely Easement draft (distributed handout). When finalized, will become template for other easements. Agreement between the Town (Grantor of the easement) and the Land Trust (Holder of the easement) in perpetuity. Mike mentioned he has concerns how the agreement is structured. Land Trust has board meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> so requested feedback on draft by next Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup>). The Commission needs to recommend to Town to accept agreement or not. Bill explained why we are going into agreement with Land Trust to keep property in conservation. Beneficial to both entities. Land Trust acts as oversight and makes sure Town maintains goals of agreement. Sally pointed out that since in perpetuity, future Town Councils can't repurpose the portions of the property (using the Town Forest as an example).
  - Greely Woods Time Frame:
    - 3/5 - Draft easement to LCC and Town Council
    - 3/13 - LCC comments due back to Mike
    - 3/20 - CCLT vote on easement
    - 4/3 - LCC vote on recommendation to Town Council
    - 4/8 or 4/20 - Town Council vote on easement
  - Roadside trail entrance signs: green hiker 12x12 reflective, mounted on posts. Commission approved signs unanimously.
  - Christmas Creek – Open space easement- give to Town. Trail hooks into Wilderness Trail.
  - Oceanview Cumberland. John showed map and pictures of property where trail joining up with Val Halla. Issue is road too long – dead end. Public safety, fire, police chiefs do not support a



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dead end road of this length. Idea of opening road out onto Greely Rd. Snowmobile trail and bridges have not been done. Woods need to be cut.

- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Sally)
  - Reviewed letter to be sent as a follow-up to those invited to Woodland Landowner Open House. Good turnout. Letter contains links to the video of the presentations, materials shared at the meeting and contact information for addition information.
  - Master binders – Jeremy Stultz (from IFM) proposed idea of creating master binders for each property to include such items as the forest management plans, soil map, and other data associated with the property.
  - Need to look at Greely Woods and Rines Forest for future management issues.
- New Business
  - Denny, John, and Jenn will liaison with the Planning Board.
  - Greely Easement Template – need someone to shepherd process through, (management plan, forest management plan, trails component, appraisal).
- Next meeting April 3rd, 7:30 pm