



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland  
290 Tuttle Road  
Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: September 6, 2019

(\* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++ = Code enforcement officer; (T) = trails SC; (F) = forest SC)  
Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; George Turner + (abs)

To: Members:

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

**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 September 4, 2019

- August minutes were approved as written.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report (Bill L):
    - September 17<sup>th</sup> planning board meeting
      - Christmas Creek Subdivision – Final review, 20-lot major subdivision; waiting on DEP approval. Issue of how storm water maintained and managed between DEP and Army Corp. Postponed.
      - Orchard Rd subdivision – amendment to an approved 10 lot Major Subdivision due to ownership change.
      - Christmas Creek – Final review for 20 lot Major Subdivision located on Tuttle Rd.
      - Cumberland Foreside Condominiums – review 4 lot Minor Subdivision located on Kings Highway, to add one more 2-unit building.
      - Town of Cumberland compost pad, sand/salt shed relocation – site plan review of relocation to parcel off of Tuttle Rd adjacent to Town Forest.
    - Other updates
      - Heritage Village (Skyview Drive Lot 2) – mix use. New contract zone needed to allow for additional residential units.
      - Friends School – improvements
      - Belted Cow – under construction – new tenants (RGA Salt)
    - October/November planning board meeting
      - OceanView Phase 2 – still working through process.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Soil Erosion Control (Bill L). Bill gave overview of soil erosion requirements. All building projects are inspected to make sure storm water requirements are followed, and deficiencies are addressed. Disturbed soils must be contained by a variety of methods such as mulch, grass, hay. Prevention is the key. Use of heavy berm to keep soils migrating into wetlands (see handout).
- Land swap consideration. In a letter dated September 3, 2019, sent to the Yarmouth Water District Trustees (see handout), Cumberland Town Council requested for consideration a proposal to trade ownership of a Cumberland property in North Yarmouth (located off Sweetser Rd) for a Town of Yarmouth property located in Cumberland (adjacent to Val Halla off Greely Rd).
- Mike brought in a pollinator house and asked if we purchase a few of them in lieu of a bird or bat house. All thought it was a good idea.
- Ellen distributed Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide by the Maine Natural Areas Program Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to each subcommittee.
- Sand/salt and compost move. Town Council voted 6-1 (Tom G against) to go ahead with the proposed move to the field adjacent to the Town Forest. Project goes to Planning Board September 17<sup>th</sup>. Mike reiterated this committee's stance on the proposed move. Mike mentioned that he and Ellen had met last month with Bill S to discuss this, but at that point it was pretty much a done deal. Our biggest objection was/is the configuration of the layout of the proposed project. We feel that the Town could do a better job mitigating the visual impact and proximity to the butterfly garden. Motion by John: Proposed motion to Planning Board to look at alternatives that we have come up with, moving the salt shed to the back of the property. Motion was seconded, vote unanimous. Mike and Denny will draft a response to the Planning Board (submit to Carla) and one of them will read the letter at the Planning Board meeting. Site walk is planned for September 14<sup>th</sup>. Below is a copy of the letter that Denny sent to Carla after our meeting. It is included here for completeness.

*The Lands and Conservation Commission writes in opposition to the plan to relocate the Compost Operation and Salt Shed to the town owned property adjacent to the Town Forest.*

*This opposition is consistent with the stance the Commission took in regard to the recent plan to develop this property for senior housing and other related purposes.*

*The property in question is now an open meadow with significant wetlands and is the site of the butterfly garden. This use complements the use of the adjacent town forest and will be compromised severely by proposed relocations.*

*While we recognize the Town is operating under a tight deadline due to its agreement with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, we lament the fact that the Commission was only allowed the briefest of opportunities to provide comment prior to the vote of the Town Council to move forward with this proposal.*

*If the project is to go forward, we urge that the Planning Board consider reversing the proposed positions of the Salt Shed and Compost, thus reducing the visual and other impacts of the more intrusive Salt Shed.*



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Trails Subcommittee (John):
  - Christmas Creek – if developer gets needed approvals, project will be on the September 17 Planning Board agenda, otherwise October's. The Town attorney is happy with the wording of the pedestrian easement and conditions of Town accepting the road as a public road. Denny noted that there was a lot of input from interested parties to get this to happen. There is a period of opportunity; huge difference in outcome if get involved early.
  - Rines Forest – Matt Warner (CCLT steward for Rines Forest) – will do a presentation and discuss possible new trails and maybe close others through Rines Forest, at a future date.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
  - Open position for a new Town Forester was advertised and Town received three responses; two interview scheduled in September. Denny noted that they would need to start right away – Knights Pond is in need of a management plan and an inventory. Members of the Trails and Commission are invited to attend both interviews 6:30-8 September 23.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Rines Forest – Try using the crowd funding approach to remove buckthorn. Below copy of ad put in September 5<sup>th</sup> Cumberland Crier:

### **Volunteers Needed To Clean Out Invasive Buckthorn!**



Join us to cut and pull invasive glossy Buckthorn from Rines Forest this month before the seeds set. We will be hand-pulling small seedlings and hand-cutting larger shrubs in selected areas. Bring gloves, a hand saw, pruning saw or clippers and wear closed toe shoes or boots.

Meet at the snowmobile entrance off Range Road, just north of Idlewood Drive.

This project is hosted jointly by the Forestry subcommittee of the Cumberland Lands and Conservation and the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust.

#### **Dates:**

Wednesday, September 11th 5:30-7:00 PM

Sunday, September 15th 1:00-2:30 PM

If you have questions please contact Sally Stockwell at 318-5629



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- Climate Action Plan – Governor’s bill, towns need to have a plan on how to deal with carbon pollution in the next 30 years. The Town of Cumberland doesn’t really have a “home” structurally where a committee dealing with this issue would reside. Denny suggested that the Conservation Commission would be a good starting point. The Town has already made a good start with the solar farm and heating the Town’s buildings with natural gas. Ellen mentioned that transportation area could really use improvement – lacking bike and foot paths. Mike requested that the information be forwarded to him and that he would put on agenda for next month.
  
- Invasive species (Sam) – no update
- Land ID (Dave) – no update
- Land Use Survey (Dave) – no update
  
- New Business
  - It was mentioned to Bill L that there is a tree leaning over the trail on the Hill Trail (A) that needs to be cut down.
  - Fall Lawn Care Workshops put on by the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in Westbrook September 18<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm and in Yarmouth September 26<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm (see handout).
  
- Next meeting October 2nd, 7:30.