

TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: May 7, 2020

(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; ^(T) = trails SC; ^(F) = forest SC)

Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber + (late); George Turner + (abs)

To: Members:

Jenn Grasso (abs)

Sam York

^(F) Ted Chadbourne

^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee

Ellen Hoffman

^(F) Melissa Cott

^(T) Stephen Fitzgerald

John Jensenius ^{vice*}

^(F) Denny Gallaudet ✓

^(T) Peter Garsoe

Steven Knowles (abs)

^(F) Gordon Lichter

^(T) *John Jensenius ✓

*Mike Schwindt

^(F) Linda Putnam ✓

^(T) Matthew Leclair

Jennifer Taylor (abs)

^(F) Timothy Schneider

^(T) Shawn McBreaity

David Young

^(F) *Sally Stockwell

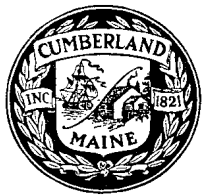
^(T) Don Stowell

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

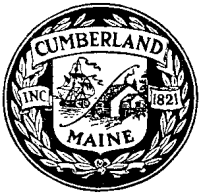
Re: Meeting May 6, 2020

- March minutes were approved as written. There was no meeting held in April due to the coronavirus. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (summarized from handout):
 - Town Hall is still closed to the public due to COVID-19. Possibly reopen end of May.
 - OceanView Phase I (Tuttle Rd) under construction; 14 permits have been issued to date.
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; one building permit issued for lot 20 with 15 lots sold. Lot 20 has been re-sited within building envelope. May require a replanting of buffer (TBD).
 - Orchard Rd subdivision –under construction; no permits issued, one lot sold and one under contract.
 - No planning board meeting for May. June items (subject to change):
 - OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – Preliminary Major Subdivision Review – public hearing: 52 dwelling units plus one community building.
 - Town gravel pit sold to Storey Brothers last year will be at Planning Board for annual review in June or July.
 - Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) phase #3 by Casco Systems facility proposed: 16,000 sq ft office building, 4,000 sq ft retail and 4,000 sq ft restaurant.



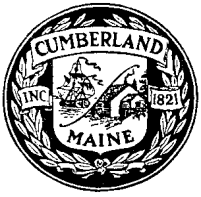
TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- New proposed four lot subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext. on approximately 13 acres. This may be first conservation subdivision.
- Town Council had recent workshop to review proposed solar farm off Route 100. Not allowable in MUZ, and would require a zone change. The Council tabled any action on this project.
- Bill Shane is working on a draft map to show Town agricultural resources. Town staff is also working on draft changes to zoning and site plan for proposed agricultural uses that would make the approval process easier, quicker and less expensive.
- Cumberland Historic Society building – move to the Prince Memorial Library parcel planned for May 19th.
- Town sand, salt and compost facility: Compost operation up and running with new pavement at the entrance, guardrails and some landscaping complete. Additional trees will be planted to buffer the neighbors later.
- New sidewalk work underway along Tuttle Road. This addition will complete the work started a year or two ago running from the center of town, and the schools to the recreation fields at Twin Brooks.
- Report from Town Council (Tom): Bob Vail would like a study of soil types in town that are conducive to farming. Would like a list of strategic parcels, desirable farm land so to get rights of first refusal. There are other issues besides soil type to consider; need GIS information as to land contours or presence of streams or wetlands. Idea of self-sufficiency in Cumberland. Desirability of land as farm land was not a consideration for our land spreadsheet. Looking for a way to pair land with farmers; needs to be affordable. Look into grants and LMF (Land for Maine's Future), perpetual easement. Directive by Council to take potential farm land into consideration. May need to revisit the conservation subdivision ordinance language in the near future. Bob Vail attend Commission's June meeting.
- The Town plans to increase parking at Town Hall. Mike submitted letter on Commissions behalf to the Planning Board stating that we are opposed to the idea. The Planning Board recommended approval of the plans. At current time, no plans to remodel or move the police station (that was shown on original plans) although the 2021 capital improvement plan included a \$3 million item for police station renovation or a new station.
- There was a question if members were covered by the Town's insurance when doing work on Town property or easements or doing work for the Town, such as trail work. John brought this issue up to the Town's insurer. His response:
 - Trails on Town-owned property – medical payments and general liability would apply
 - Trails on Town-owned easements – medical payments and general liability would apply
 - Town-marked trails on private property – while “off premises”, as long as the volunteers are working within the scope of town operations, medical payments and general liability would apply



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Mike asked about Directors and Officers coverage and requested a copy of the dec sheet from Bill L.
- Twin Brook logging operation (Greely Rd side) – Sam raised issue of logging and trails. Denny explained that Jeff Storey will periodically harvest. This is the first time in a number of years because of weather issues. Jeff has a forester and a forest management plan. The forest subcommittee will oversee work and has made Jeff and his forester aware of the guiding principles.
- Still waiting on benches for Town Forest. Also need pads in place (they have been marked out: one by BFG and one on trail near senior housing). Bill Longley will coordinate with public works. Once pads are in place, then location of benches can be added to map. Waiting on one of the parts to complete building the benches. Issue was raised by Yarmouth Rotary Club with need to periodically rebrand the back of the existing benches. This issue needs further investigation.
- Peony garden (Mike and Ellen) – peonies dug up from peony garden property that was bought by White Pine Community Church. New garden was created in front of the BFG. Plans to go back in the later summer/fall to get more peonies. Will need to expand the planted area. Mike will inquire if the Thank You letter should be from the Town Council or the LCC.
- Red Mill Way – Commission recommended that Town Council accept gift of land adjacent to and over Red Mill Way from approximately Meadow Lane to Hawthorne Court. Housekeeping issue. No action taken, deferred to June meeting.
- Trails Subcommittee - RTS (John)- summarized from his notes:
 - Trails getting lots of use and showing signs of this. Neighboring towns have closed trails and trail head parking due to wet conditions and to encourage social distancing. Trails subcommittee decided they would prefer to keep trails open and have been monitoring the trails and cleaning up fallen debris to keep the trails passable. The Trails Subcommittee recommends that the Commission consider whether the Town should limit access to bikers and horses when the soil is soft and wet. There is signage on some trails asking people to respect trails. Note in April 21 Forecaster entitled: Please Enjoy and Respect the Town's Trail System, to try and bring this issue home.
 - Waterfall trail off of Blanchard Rd – need to move trail over to our right of way – CCLT easement. Needs to be surveyed. Work issue with Land Trust, Town and Commission.
 - Greely Woods - yellow trail now extends to Glenview and Newell Ridge. Trail has been marked and property owners are OK with trail appearing on maps. This new trail runs through 10 different properties and mostly follows along old logging trails. Pandolfo easement (Crystal Lane) was ready to be signed – but Town Hall was closed.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Farwell Ave – path to MSAD51 no update.
- A portion of the snowmobile trail that connects Rines Forest to Blanchard Rd has been closed. The Town plans to re-route the trail through the Town-owned Godsoe property (new route marked in red). John is working with the snowmobile club to determine the exact location of the new trail and will work with Public Works (Bill L will coordinate) on what needs to be done to complete the route (tree cutting and a culvert needs to be replaced).



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Cumberland Crossing (OceanView – Phase 2) – Snowmobile trail not consistent with easement, so dead issue. OceanView is planning to go before the Planning Board in June and CLCC will continue to push to have pedestrian trail connectivity completed as soon as possible.
 - Christmas Creek – no update.
 - Leaving Town of Cumberland property signs are in. Being placed and are available for where needed.
 - Cross Cumberland Trail Markers – Have been posted along a portion of a trail that crosses Cumberland. Due to the wishes of several private property owners along the route, the trail cannot be marked as “Cross” Cumberland trail since it cannot be marked along the entire route. The issue will be brought up at the next Trails Subcommittee meeting.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny and Sally’s notes)
 - The Forest subcommittee has not met recently.
 - Paul Larrivee has started a timber cruise at Knight’s Pond. He has also checked in on and reported on activities at Twin Brook (Jeff Storey doing a timber harvest).





TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Sally working on update of Rines Forest Management Plan along with other properties.
- Landowner open house – cancelled due to virus.
- Need to submit application for grant from Project Canopy for Forest Management plan for Rines Forest addition and Knights Pond.
- Climate Action Subcommittee (taken from Denny's minute notes - March 25 meeting)
 - Denny noted LD1546 – legislature allows towns to have building codes stricter than state.
 - Solar farm for schools – commercial project more cost effective, band together with other towns.
 - Street lights will all be converted to LED lights (although not the tennis courts at Val Halla).

Members attending: Sukie Curtis, Denny Gallaudet, Jenn Grasso, Jesse LaMarre-Vincent.

The team met remotely using the ZOOM platform. On check in, members are all in good health and working at home.

We discussed further the role of forest carbon in the Climate Action Plan. Forest carbon refers to the fact a forest - when annual growth is greater than removals and mortality - is sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and offsetting carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

The CAP estimates that in FY2019 the Town emitted 751 and MSAD51 2,459 MTCO₂e. The landfill solar farm will eliminate roughly 200 so the net is around 3,000 MTCO₂e at present.

The Town currently owns around 1000 acres of forest land. While in the process of being verified by Paul Larrivee, Town forester, it is likely this forest land is sequestering around 2,500 MTCO₂e or 83% of total emissions. However our initial research of climate action plans elsewhere suggests that offsets are sparingly used and are less robust than actual emissions reductions. Examples ranged from 10% to 40% as a ratio of offsets to total emissions.

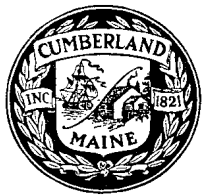
Our tentative conclusion would be to limit forest carbon offsets from town forest land to 20% or 600 MTCO₂e in the Climate Action Plan. This would also leave room for future harvesting for wood products as a source of Town revenue. Alternatively, excess offsets could be "sold" to Cumberland residents seeking to reduce their carbon footprint.

We then discussed suitable templates for the Climate Action Plan itself. In the area, the South Portland plan seems to be the gold standard. Given proximity and size of the two towns, Falmouth's plan would also be a helpful benchmark.

Noting that the Town's 2009 Comprehensive Plan was careful to document stakeholder outreach and also conducted a citizen survey, we discussed the potential and usefulness of the survey early in our process. We agreed that such a survey should come sooner rather than later. We further decided that the Team could both design and conduct a survey using web based tools such as Survey Monkey.

Assignment for next meeting:

1. Read South Portland and Falmouth climate action plans as well other useful templates such as the one developed by Rocky Mountain Institute. Jesse has saved these on the Team's shared Google folder
 2. Brainstorm and discuss each member's top 5 initiatives, so far, for the Climate Action Plan - e.g. industrial scale heat pumps.
- Invasive species
 - Emerald Ash Borer (Dave) – moving towards Cumberland. We don't have extensive growth of ash trees as some other towns. Provide info to land owners – State has a brochure. Perhaps provide copies and info at large landowner meeting. Treat by injecting trees with insecticide. Forest service tracks by using traps. Dave recommended no further effort at this time.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Spraying (Sam) – sprayed again on area that was sprayed last year, as well as along Route 1. Same said he notices that there doesn't seem to be as much regrowth this year.
- What to do about buckthorn in Town Forest. Suggested cutting again with the brontosaurus same area and then spray after some regrowth has occurred, so cut in June and spray in September.
- New business
 - Look at cleanup of some of the downed trees in the Town Forest – in late fall (revisit issue).
 - Improper/unauthorized use of trails (John) – Several bridges were apparently built on Knight's Pond trails without Town permission. John and Mike will look into the matter to ensure that the LCC is involved and CLCC approval is given before any trail improvements are undertaken by outside organizations. In addition, 4WD tracks were seen on one of the trails at Knight's Pond. The Trails subcommittee will check to see if all the trails are adequately marked.
 - Idea of a survey of trails and trail usage – John will talk to Eliza Porter about doing a survey monkey.
 - Red trail in Town Forest – to cut over along the old snowmobile trail from the Town Forest Blue Trail, ends up right in front of the salt shed. Trail should be rerouted and map updated.
 - New Town Forest trail map is needed for both kiosks. Will wait until summer when hopefully the benches are in and the Red Trail can be rerouted.
 - Need an updated Excel file and a map of locations of the Town Forest Nature Trail. Need to get this from Judy Colby-George (Town GIS) and put on Town website. Ellen will touch base with Judy to make sure she knows exactly how we would like the data.
- Next meeting June 3, 2020, 7:30.