

TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland
290 Tuttle Road
Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: December 16, 2020

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

To: Members:

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

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 2, 2020

- November minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Town Council (Allison) – No update
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (summarized from Bill L’s notes):
 - During the month of November 2020, 23 new building permits were issued for a variety of structures such as: pools, sheds, decks, renovations, additions, and solar installations.
 - OceanView Phase I (Tuttle Rd) under construction; 19/20 permits have been issued.
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; 13 building permits issued. County records indicate a total of 18 lots have been sold and closed. Road paved
 - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – two building permits issued;
 - November Planning Board meeting was cancelled.
 - Planning Board meeting scheduled for December 2020:
 - Storey Brothers gravel pit off Goose Pond Road (old Town gravel pit) – annual review
 - Several ordinance changes to streamline agriculture review process



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- Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – 52 dwelling units plus one community building, final approval – public hearing.
 - Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) phase #3 proposed 16,000 sq. ft. office building, 4,000 sq. ft. retail and 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant (Casco Systems facility)
 - Conservation subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext later this year.
- Town selling land (roughly 10 acres) with gravel pit in North Yarmouth (off Sweetser Rd). Yarmouth Water District (YMD) has expressed interest; they want to protect land around wells. Went to bid November 1st. YWD is also willing to include 1.9 acres around the maintenance area of Val Halla (adjacent to their pump house). John moved to recommend selling the property to YWD; no discussion on motion; vote unanimous.
- CCLT annual property monitoring. Jenn attended the site walk at Broad Cove; Jennifer walked Greely Woods with John who had previously attended walk with CCLT.
- Town Forest/ Nature Trail/ BFG (Mike and Ellen) – there has been no action on these items:
 - The Nature Trail - need to meet with Judy so we can finish laying out the Red Trail and get access to the nature trail database in a form we can manipulate and put online.
 - The need to pave the very top portion of the walkway that leads into the Green Trail from Drowne Rd. The sign that points to the trail leading down the steep embankment will also need to be moved to the paved entrance.
 - Snow fence is needed around the BFG.
- Noise abatement (Riva) – issue of noise coming from I-295 after trees were removed affecting Schooner Ridge neighborhood. Riva, Mike and Bill S spoke with several members of the MDOT including their landscape architect. Result, three different evergreen species 8-10' tall as well as some bushes will be planted in May for about 500' adjacent to the I-295 emergency pullout. Anticipate some of the willows cut further south will regenerate to provide some added noise buffering.
- Solar Farm update (Bill)
 - How credits are received for generated KWH has changed under the new law. Most of the current year was calculated under the old plan; rebate rates have since increased. In summer produced more energy than using. Accumulate rolling credit, allows us to pay for other charges. Need \$640,000 to purchase farm in the future.
 - Denny - A number of neighboring schools are looking at a coop solar farm. Tax credits will got down next year – go in as a group. Net metering may change in the future.



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- Sally commented that where the solar farm is placed would be important. Don't want to cut down trees or use farm land for this purpose.
 - Tree City (Mike)
 - Should the Town and Commission invest the time and energy to pursue this?
 - Neighboring towns have this designation. This is a national designation, not just Maine
 - Sally and Sam don't think the designation is important. We have limited resources; don't want this to interfere with other projects such as tackling invasive species.
 - Denny noted that the Climate Action survey (30% response rate), showed that most responders favored planting trees along road ways and public ways. We want to establish a theme that the Town promotes and understands the importance of trees.
 - Denny suggested that the Tree City work would align nicely with the Climate Action subcommittee so Mike reassigned to them.
 - Tree City Standards (from the Arbor Day Foundation):
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Tree City USA Standards

To qualify as a Tree City USA community, you must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community* would have a viable tree management program and that no community would be excluded because of size.

Four Standards for Tree City USA Recognition

Standard 1

A Tree Board or Department

Someone must be legally responsible for the care of all trees on city- or town-owned property. By delegating tree care decisions to a professional forester, arborist, city department, citizen-led tree board or some combination, city leaders determine who will perform necessary tree work. The public will also know who is accountable for decisions that impact community trees. Often, both professional staff and an advisory tree board are established, which is a good goal for most communities.

The formation of a tree board often stems from a group of citizens. In some cases a mayor or city officials have started the process. Either way, the benefits are immense. Involving residents and business owners creates wide awareness of what trees do for the community and provides broad support for better tree care.



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Standard 2

A Tree Care Ordinance

A public tree care ordinance forms the foundation of a city's tree care program. It provides an opportunity to set good policy and back it with the force of law when necessary.

A key section of a qualifying ordinance is one that establishes the tree board or forestry department—or both—and gives one of them the responsibility for public tree care (as reflected in Standard 1). It should also assign the task of crafting and implementing a plan of work or for documenting annual tree care activities.

Qualifying ordinances will also provide clear guidance for planting, maintaining and/or removing trees from streets, parks and other public spaces as well as activities that are required or prohibited. Beyond that, the ordinance should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular community.

For tips and a checklist of important items to consider in writing or improving a tree ordinance, [see Tree City USA Bulletin #9](#).

Standard 3

A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

City trees provide many benefits—clean air, clean water, shade and beauty to name a few—but they also require an investment to remain healthy and sustainable. By providing support at or above the \$2 per capita minimum, a community demonstrates its commitment to grow and tend these valuable public assets. Budgets and expenditures require planning and accountability, which are fundamental to the long-term health of the tree canopy and the Tree City USA program.

To meet this standard each year, the community must document at least \$2 per capita toward the planting, care and removal of city trees—and the planning efforts to make those things happen. At first this may seem like an impossible barrier to some communities. However, a little investigation usually reveals that more than this amount is already being spent on tree care. If not, this may signal serious neglect that will cost far more in the long run. In such a case, working toward Tree City USA recognition can be used to reexamine the community's budget priorities and redirect funds to properly care for its tree resources before it is too late.

Standard 4

An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

An effective program for community trees would not be complete without an annual Arbor Day ceremony. Citizens join together to celebrate the benefits of community trees and the work accomplished to plant and maintain them. By passing and reciting an official Arbor Day proclamation, public officials demonstrate their support for the community tree program and complete the requirements for becoming a Tree City USA!

This is the least challenging—and probably most enjoyable—standard to meet. An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. It can include a tree planting event, tree care activities



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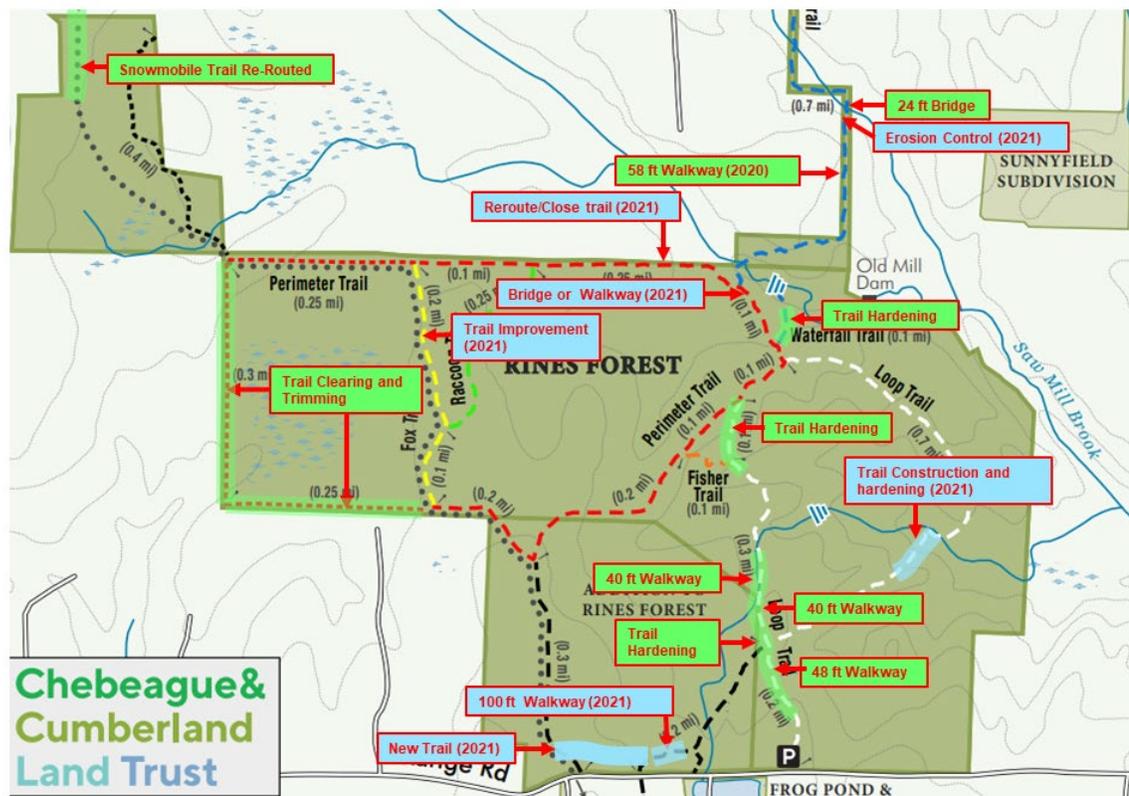
or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters. For children, Arbor Day may be their only exposure to the green world or a springboard to discussions about the complex issue of environmental quality.

The benefits of Arbor Day go far beyond the shade and beauty of new trees for the next generation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care. Utility companies can join in to promote planting small trees beneath power lines or being careful when digging. Fire prevention messaging can also be worked into the event, as can conservation education about soil erosion or the need to protect wildlife habitat.

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- Mike questioned if there was any sort of agreement between the Town and the snowmobile club. They had apparently cut some trees outside the established trail width without permission. There have also been bridges built without LCC knowledge. Should there be a formal agreement? Trails subcommittee will follow-up by discussion with snowmobile club.
 - Sally made a motion to extend Paul's (forester) contract for three years. Sam seconded motion, no discussion, approved unanimously.
 - Mike mentioned that the guiding principles for managing the Town's forests were never acted on by the Town Council. Tentatively scheduled for adoption at the December 14th Council meeting.
 - Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John) - summarized from John's notes:
 - Farwell Avenue Easement – Final wording for the easement is being worked out between the homeowners' attorney and the Town's attorney. John hopes to meet with the property owners this month to discuss the width and exact location of the easement.
 - Rines Forest
 - The trails subcommittee has completed the planned work for this year:
 - Gordon L and John cleared overgrown sections of the Perimeter Trail
 - Don S, Steve F and John built a 40' walkway on the White Trail
 - John laid down gravel on portions of the White Trail and the trail to the waterfalls
 - Steve F, David F and John built a 58' walkway along the Waterfalls Trail
 - John posted additional trail markers at the intersections of all the trails
 - Despite the recent rains, the trail work is holding up well
 - The Town will take care of several trees that are leaning over the trails
 - The map below shows the work completed this fall (green boxes) and planned future work (blue boxes)



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- Knight's Pond – The Forestry and Trails subcommittees are planning to walk the White Trail on the NW side of Knight's Pond along with CCLT and the Town Forester in an effort to relocate the trail a little farther away from the edge of the pond.
- Greely Woods – The trail is in good shape. One very short section of the trail is under water and may require additional gravel next year.
- Twin Brook – All the trails have been marked with the colored trail markers. There has been no word from Parks and Recreation concerning updates to the trail brochure and map.
- Christmas Creek – The developer has rough cut a trail connecting the development to the Wilderness Trail in Twin Brook. If and when the Town accepts the road in the as a Town Road, the developers will provide a trail easement to the Town for the trail.
- Snowmobile Trails – John put up additional signage in Rines Forest to help mark the snowmobile trails. The snowmobile club has completed a trail (including bridges) that leads from Greely Woods to the North Yarmouth power lines.



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- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (summarized from Sally's notes)
 - Rines Forest
 - The Forest Subcommittee recommended forwarding the updated Rines Forest Management Plan to the CLCC, with a recommendation for forwarding to the Town council for adoption.
 - Trail work – John, Steve F. and Gordon L. completed several additional trail improvements, including hardening several trails with gravel, building a 52' walkway along the Waterfall Trail, and clearing brush along the Perimeter Trail.
 - Knight's Pond
 - Timber inventory and carbon calculations – Paul has completed the timber inventory at Knight's Pond, with the exception of one 10-acre parcel at the NE corner of the Pond because it is unclear if that parcel is included as part of the Knight's Pond project . If the parcel is to be included, Paul will place a few inventory plots then complete the inventory and calculate the carbon storage.
 - Trail relocation – Several members from the Land Trust, the Trails Subcommittee, Sally and Paul will be meeting December 8 from 11-12 to discuss options for relocating the trail that is adjacent to the pond, further away from the water.
 - Project Canopy grant- Paul has started the timber inventory in the newly acquired section of Rines Forest, Godsoe, and Milliken properties. After the timber inventories are complete, Paul will present his findings and then create a management plan for each site in collaboration with the Forest Subcommittee. Note: the Project Canopy grant covers the timber inventory and management plans for both Knight's Pond and the additions to Rines Forest.
 - Climate Action Plan – The Cumberland Climate Action Subcommittee would like the Forestry Subcommittee to set aside 300 acres as a forest carbon reserve in order to offset the final 20% of carbon emissions that cannot be covered by switching to natural gas, LED lighting, and solar. The Forestry subcommittee agreed to take the matter up as part of their management planning.
 - Forester contract for 2021 – The committee unanimously recommended to ask the Town Council renew Paul's contract for an additional three years.
 - Large landowner open house – Gordon wrote up an introduction to the video of the 2019 Landowner open house inviting large landowners that didn't get a chance to attend last year, to take a tour of the videos from the comfort of their homes (see below). Gordon broke down the video by section and speaker along with providing start and stop times for each of the presentations and the Q&A. The information will be put up on the website as well as the Cumberland Crier along with a link to the presentations.



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Calling All Cumberland Woodland Landowners!

Although we can't get together this year like we have in the past, there's still a way for interested large landowners in Cumberland to learn more about how you can manage your forest land. Click the link below to watch the video presentation from our Cumberland Woodland Landowner Open House in 2019. You can watch from the comfort of your home but with the feel of joining your neighbors at the Town Hall.

A session breakdown is listed below for easy navigation.

<https://vimeo.com/314477803>

1. Introduction and Overview of Town of Cumberland Forest Mgmt Guidelines

- a. Sally Stockwell, CLCC Forestry Subcommittee Chair
- b. Presentation - 00:00 - 24:30
- c. Q&A - 24:30 - 30:30

Meet a Forester (and find out how to meet your forest management goals)

- a. Jeremy Stoltz, Former Cumberland Town Forester
- b. Presentation - 30:30 - 46:30
- c. Q&A - 46:30 - 50:20

Overview of the Tree Growth and Farmland and Open Space Tax Programs

- a. John Brushwein, Town Assessor
- b. Presentation - 50:20 - 1:05:30
- c. Q&A - 1:05:30 - 1:12:40

Conserving Your Land for Future Generations (conservation easements, land donations, and more)

- a. Penny Asherman, Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust
- b. Presentation - 1:12:40 - 1:23:15
- c. Q&A - 1:23:15 - 1:26:40

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- Climate Action Subcommittee (Denny) – summarized from Denny's email re November 25th meeting:
 - Riva proposed moving forward with the brand "Sustainable Cumberland" for the CAP. The purpose of the brand is to capture the spirit of the Plan, particularly the abundance of forested and open land in comparison to other towns in Greater Portland. In addition, it would highlight the Town's concerted effort to retain open space through zoning changes and land acquisition. Riva will develop this idea more fully in the Community Context section of the Plan.
 - Jesse reviewed the current status of the citizen survey, which now has 690 respondents. Jesse reached out to Eliza at the Town Hall to put a final plug in the Crier, noting that the survey will be closing mid-December.

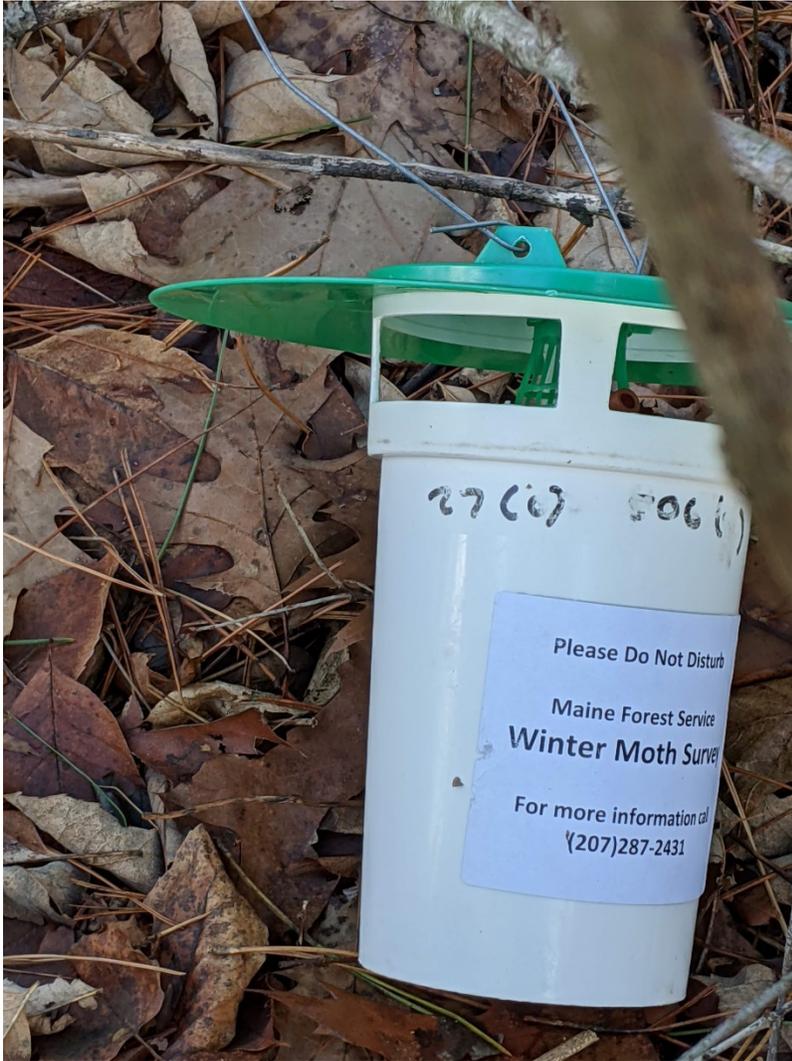


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- As noted earlier, the most highly ranked action item (448 strongly support) is: “With the help of neighboring farms, develop a robust and sustainable food economy to increase the availability of local food.” Denny discussed this action with Chris Cabot (CCLT director; Chris had previously worked at Maine Farmland Trust). Chris suggested a focus on diversified vegetable farming which is both profitable and viable on 5-10 acre parcels. Due to the high cost of available land, the idea was floated for the Town to lease land at low rates on several parcels of land it already owns as a pilot project.
- The current draft of the CAP proposes a set of action items that is estimated to reduce GHG emissions by 2030 of the Town and MSAD51 by roughly 80%. The remainder is a residual natural gas heating load and diesel fuel for public works vehicles, for which there is no currently available emission-free technology. The CAPC proposed offsetting these emissions with an equivalent amount of carbon offsets from Town-owned forestland. It therefore proposed a 300 acre conservation reserve that remains unharvested until 2050.
- Denny was invited to a meeting of the Greely High School Climate Action Group. This is a student organization that is mentored by GHS staff member Peter Scott. Denny discussed the CAP under development and of the action items MSAD51 is considering. The group plans to reach out to Bill Shane for a tour of the landfill solar farm.
- Invasive species - Ellen mentioned that she saw a Winter Moth trap by the kiosk by the Town Forest, but no one was aware who placed it, when it was placed or if there were others in Town. The label says it is property of the Maine Forest Service.



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- Next meeting January 6, 2021, 7:30.