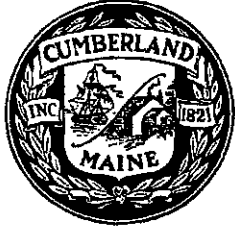


OCEAN ACCESS COMMITTEE MINUTES



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 11th
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Council Chambers

Present: Hank Adams, Penny Asherman, Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer, Ingrid Parkin, Stephen Thomas, Lew Incze, Chairman Maureen Connolly, Vice Chairman Joshua Ottow, Councilor Tom Gruber, Councilor George Turner

Absent: Jessica Joyce, Alt. Shellfish

Town Staff: Bill Shane Town Manager, Annemarie Dawson Recording Secretary

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Maureen Connolly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 PM. Maureen welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of March Meetings

Maureen asked that the committee take time to review the minutes from Wednesday, March 9th, 2016. Bill Shane explained the attached maps in the meeting minute packets. He asked that committee members use addresses rather than names when referring to areas on the maps. Bill will have the maps available at the meetings.

Vote: Unanimous

III. Update of Clam Flats – Hank

Hank shared with the committee some of the discussion that took place at the Shellfish Committee meeting. Good news – water quality is up! Bad news – there are no clams on the flat. Hank feels that the phosphate and nitrogen run-off is affecting the lack of clams in the area. The Shellfish Committee had decided not to charge for a Shellfish Permit, and is only charging a \$10.00 Conservation fee. They have sold very few.

Penny Asherman asked about the Mussels, Cohogs, and Razor Clams. Hank said that they are thriving and available but are regulated the state and not the town.

IV. Update on Signage Grant and Next Steps – Penny/Ingrid (Signs Attached)

Penny shared with us that we received the grant for the signage. Everyone was very excited and thanked Penny and Ingrid. Penny passed around copies of the signs, and Bill Shane had them in PowerPoint for all to see. The Green Broad Cove Reserve sign will be our “Natural Resource” sign. The tan sign is our “History and Historical Timeline” sign. Bill asked about the locations for each sign. The History sign will be located at the start of the trail while the Natural Resource sign will be towards the beach area.

Discussion ensued in regards to the size of the sign. Bill asked that we rely on the sign company to help with that decision. Penny said the sign is about six weeks out until we receive it. The stand will be assembled and placed by the Town.

Lew Incze also discussed the Coastal Waters Commission signage that will be going up at the Town Landing.

V. Request from CWC – Access for Parking Plan – Reconsideration

Lew shared with the committee discussions that the Coastal Water Commission had in regards to parking and drop off at the cove. Lew and the committee had felt that it was hard to justify not to allow people to drop off their things and then go back to park and said, “How do we do this responsibly.” Discussion ensued about parking and drop off.

Councilman Tom Gruber, who is on the AIP committee and Counsel Liaison, shared concerns about the senior population not having access to the cove because of the long distance from parking to the water. Vice Chairman Josh Ottow agreed and feels we have a civic duty to share the BCR with the residents of Cumberland and make it accessible to families and seniors. Josh said “simply a drop off” to unload and park would be reasonable.

Bill explained to the committee what the attendant (college student) will be doing at the reserve. The attendant will be working Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. He will have a radio, golf cart, and truck available to him as well as town staff support.

Vice Chair Josh Ottow made the motion; seconded by Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer:

- To amend Management Plan and incorporate a seasonal plan for a drop off area near the relocated boat house, only when the facility is staffed.
- **Motion Approved 5-3 (Asherman, Connolly, Adams)**

Bill asked that Josh start a sub-committee to discuss the rules that will need to be put in place for a drop-off only plan. Chair Maureen Connolly, Coastal Waters Chair Lew Incze and Stephen Thomas volunteered to be on the committee.

Bill will need to go to the Town Council and the Land Trust to communicate the change to the Management Plan. The parking plan may also change requiring Planning Board approval.

VI. Update on Floats and Pier – Lew

Lew told the committee that the two new floats are ready. Bill Shane said that the Public Hearing will be on May 23rd, and we will be requesting a “Wharfing Out” permit to place the floats.

VII. Updates

- **Facility Staffing:** Attendant will be a college student, working from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- **Archeological Dig:** The dig will be headed up by Thomas Bennett, Library Director. USM students will be helping with the excavation after Labor Day. A sign-up sheet will be available for Volunteers.
- **Brown Tail Moth Spraying:** The spraying will be taking place next week. Two oak trees down by the water at BCR will be injected by Whitney Tree Service for preservation.

- **Horseshoe Crabs-** June. Penny shared that this is a successful and popular event. It takes place mid to high tide. Naturalists cap the event at a total of 75. The event is advertised in the Town Crier, with the Land Trust, and the Library. The Committee unanimously approved the event.
- **Maine Healthy Beaches:** The Town is going to partake in the program. Water testing will be done weekly during the summer.
- **Vernal Pools:** No Vernal Pools to report.

VIII. Other Business

The next meeting will convene on June 8th at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place in the Police Conference Room, lower level.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

- Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Annemarie Dawson, Recording Secretary

Broad Cove Reserve Town of Cumberland

ECOSYSTEM

Broad Cove is a thriving marine ecosystem. Protection of the water quality and respect for the species that live in the Cove is our collective responsibility.



Cumberland is one of 42 towns in the Casco Bay Watershed. Rainwater - and everything it collects along the way - funnels through more than 1,335 miles of small rivers and streams to the Bay. Broad Cove's water quality is regularly monitored for swimming and drinking.

Small fish, like the mummichog, the Atlantic silverside, and the Atlantic herring, are common in Broad Cove. The Atlantic herring is a species of fish that is found in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Maine. It is a species of fish that is found in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Maine.

SHELLFISH

Broad Cove's tidal mudflats provide habitat for soft shell and razor clams, blue mussels, quahogs and marine worms. Water quality and control of the invasive green crab are critical to the health of the shellfish and the shellfish harvesting industry.

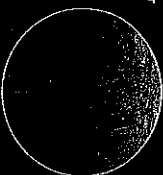
Aquaculture is quickly becoming part of the economy that relies on the health of Casco Bay. Aquaculture oyster flats are located just offshore near Basket Island.



GRASSES

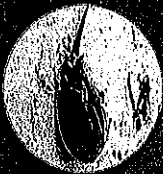
Grasses on the shore and in the water provide important habitat, prevent beach erosion and filter pollution. Please do not step on fragile grasses.

Broad Cove's red grass area in the shallow waters just off the shore is approximately 80 acres and provides important nursery habitat. Boat propellers, pollution and the invasive green crab can damage eelgrass.



INVASIVE GREEN CRABS

Invasive green crabs are voracious predators that eat other crabs and shellfish, outcompete native crabs and destroy eelgrass beds, causing the whole marine ecosystem to go out of balance.



HORSESHOE CRAB

Horseshoe crabs have prospered in our oceans for 450 million years. They live in the damp flats, reefs and bays of Broad Cove Beach May-June. Horseshoe crabs do not pinch, sting or bite. Please do not disturb the horseshoe crabs or remove them from their habitat.



TIDAL WADING BIRD AND WATERFOWL HABITAT

Broad Cove is designated as significant tidal wading bird and waterfowl habitat by the State of Maine. There are over 150 species of water birds that may on Casco Bay.



MARINE MAMMALS

There is a healthy population of harbor seals in Casco Bay and each seal possesses a unique pattern of spots. The seals come down to Casco Bay from Canadian waters in May and return in the fall.



FISH

Salmon in Casco Bay may come from as far away as Chesapeake Bay and are an important recreational and commercial fishery.

MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS

Broad Cove is an important migratory stop for many shorebirds which feed on the rich marine invertebrates in late summer before flying to points far south.

