

**Ocean Access Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2015
Cumberland Town Offices – Council Chambers
6:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present:

Denny Gallaudet, Chair, Maureen Connolly, Vice-Chair, C. Ingrid Parkin, , Charles Adams, Lew Incze, Stephen Thomas (arrived late), Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer(arrived late), George Turner, Council Liaison, Tom Gruber, Council Liaison, Liaison, (arrived late)

Absent: Penny Asherman, CCLT, Jeff Perry

Staff: Bill Shane, Town Manager, Pam Bosarge, Thomas Bennett, Librarian, Prince Memorial Library, Administrative Assistant

II. Approval of the May 13, 2015 Minutes:

Mr. Adams moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2015.

Ms. Connolly seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

III. History & Archeology Presentation: Thomas Bennett, Librarian Prince Memorial Library

Mr. Gallaudet introduced Thomas Bennett, Prince Memorial Librarian stating he asked him to come give a brief report of the archeological survey that was conducted on site.

Mr. Bennett reviewed the Phase I archeological study conducted at the site; and a review of the history of the property. In 1837, the Scales family sold the former Payson property to the Town of Cumberland. This purchase was at the recommendation of the Town's Overseers of the Poor board. The Overseers decided to establish a Town Farm where the poor could live, work the land and contribute to their own upkeep. Broad Cove Reserve thus for the next several decades was the location of the Town Farm. By 1866, methods of poor relief had sufficiently changed that the Overseers of the Poor board decided to sell the Town Farm pursuant to the vote of a special Town Meeting called for the purpose.

Mr. Gallaudet thanked Mr. Bennett for his information and stated he thought there was educational potential for signage with photos showing the actual location of the buildings. The historical information is available in the documents of the Overseers of the Poor.

III. Finalization of Management Plan for June 15, 2015 – Council Meeting

- Coastal Water decision regarding motorboat access to the pier

Mr. Gallaudet explained the Management Plan is a living document and may change from time to time. The Town Council asked the Coastal Waters Commission about motorboat usage and the Coastal Waters said why not allow motorboats, based on the tides and depth of water they expect low usage, and saw no reason to re-strict motor boats but to monitor use and limit the number of boats at the pier. There could be four small floating signs indicating the swimming area to restrict boats and no launching of boats.

The Committee discussed the use of motor boats and allowing pier access.

The Coastal Waters Commission has control over the coastal access and will conduct a study to determine impact if any.

Mr. Shane stated that the homeowner's in Spears Hill want moorings. The Homeowner's Association has riparian rights subject to the Conservation Easement from the point of the beach to Town Landing Road. They have asked the Coastal Waters Commission to designate ten moorings and the developer is willing to pay up to \$150,000 towards pier replacement and maintenance. The license agreement would give the right to tie two dingy boats at the float.

Mr. Incze stated this has two advantages to the Town; to help with the cost of the pier maintenance and replacement and to limit the number of piers built. The Ordinance states when possible a pier should be shared.

The Committee discussed the fairness of moorings, enforcement issues and restricting power boats from tying up at the pier; and potential impact on eel grass.

Mr. Gallaudet stated it is important to have the Town Council adopt the Management Plan which may change after the Coastal Waters Commission study.

The Committee agreed to send the Broad Cove Reserve Management Plan as drafted and not to change it to allow motorboats.

IV. Parking Update

Mr. Shane reviewed the parking and access plan that is being sent to the Planning Board. The parking lot will be gravel and cover approximately ½ acre. The design is for 33 vehicles with potential for 11 future spaces. The cost to construct the parking area is estimated at \$90,000 and if we eliminate or add spaces the cost is approximately \$2,000 per parking space. There is a fixed cost of \$30,000 with base construction \$60,000. This is located approximately ½ mile from the beach and will connect to the existing trail and loop around. The circulation is one way and the surface will be gravel with re-claim the same surface as on the road. Beach Drive is paved until it comes out of the woods and then the surface is re-claim. There will be curb stops to designate the parking spaces with wood or concrete, there will be no stripping. On site the pink flags indicate clearing and the blue flags indicate the parking lot area.

The Committee discussed the proposed parking lot with comments as follows:

- The parking lot is too large should be smaller and gauge the size by the need.
- It should be as large as possible; with concern the new homeowners' association may give resistance.

Mr. Shane continued stating the stormwater will drain towards Route 88. The parking area will be 150' x 150' with 200' x 200' cleared area.

Mr. Gallaudet re-stated that Cousins Island has 30 parking spaces; and there are 20 at Mackworth. Mr. Gallaudet asked the timing for the construction of the parking lot.

Mr. Shane stated it will probably go out to bid in the fall. Within two weeks the road is starting to take shape, it should be paved by the end of next week. A gate will be installed at the end of the turnaround. The boat house will be lifted with a crane and moved out of the Resource Protection District. By Labor Day the entrance will be more attractive, the landscape plan was finalized last week.

The Committee asked about parking on the road.

Mr. Shane stated the Town Council can give permission to park along the road; there is room for possibly 16-20 vehicles.

Mr. Thomas asked about the location of the picnic tables.

The plan will be submitted to the Planning Board on the 21st and was given to the Land Trust on June 9th.

The majority of the Committee agreed with constructing 33 parking spaces. The proposal includes 4 limited mobility spaces by the circle.

V. Other Business:

Ms. Connolly asked Mr. Shane to share the long term plans for the Committee.

Mr. Shane stated the Council is talking about appointing one larger Parks and Recreation Committee to oversee all properties, including Twin Brook, Rines Forest, Knight's Pond, and Broad Cove Reserve. This would be one committee to oversee all town properties and parks.

Ms. Connolly asked who determines when the work of a Committee is finished.

Mr. Shane stated the Committee will know when its work is done. This Committee has done an amazing job creating a Management Plan. It took the Rines Forest Committee two years.

Mr. Gallaudet opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Tom Hyndman of 9 Ocean Terrace asked for an update on the meadow and asked if there were any consequences or legal action taken against the contractor.

Mr. Gallaudet gave an overview stating that the stock pile has been removed and there is a substantial remediation plan.

Mr. Shane stated the site was inspected during the tree cutting, the trees were marked. The Town as well as the Land Trust has sent Notice of Violations. Forest Bell was consulted for input with the remediation plan. The meadow has been re-loamed and seeded and the grass is growing. The Council did not take any legal action.

Mr. Gallaudet closed the meeting to public comment.

VI. Adjournment:

Ms. Gorsuch-Plummer moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Ingrid seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bosarge, Administrative Assistant