



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: February 5, 2021

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

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)

Sam York

(F) Ted Chadbourne

(T) Shaun Breton

Jenn Grasso

David Young

(F) Melissa Cott

(T) Stephen Fitzgerald

Matt Grondin

(F) *Denny Gallaudet ✓

(T) *John Jensenius ✓

Ellen Hoffman

(F) John Leavitt ✓

(T) Matthew Leclair

John Jensenius vice*

(F) Gordon Lichter ✓

(T) Brian Stearns

Riva Krut

(F) Linda Putnam

(T) John Stewart

*Mike Schwindt

(F) Sally Stockwell

(T) Don Stowell

Climate Action Subcommittee:

Sukie Curtis ✓, Jennifer Grasso, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Ivy Frignoca, Mark Segrist ✓

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

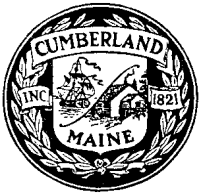
Re: Meeting February 3, 2021

- January minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- New members Matt Grondin – Commission and Mark Segrist - Climate Action Subcommittee were welcomed.
- Town Council (Allison, Tom) – No update
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (summarized from Bill L’s notes):
 - During the month of January 2021, 16 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; 23 permits have been issued.
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; 14 building permits issued. County records indicate all lots have been sold and closed.
 - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – five building permits issued.
 - Planning Board meeting scheduled for February 15th 2021:
 - Workshop for three lot subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext.
 - Several ordinance changes to streamline agriculture review process.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – 52 new units plus one community building, final approval – public hearing.
- Zoning change VCC to VOC for four new 1-bedroom multiplex units at Rt 100 at Emerald Green.
- Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - 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)
- A very favorable lease offer from Rowe Ford of Westbrook to the Town for up to two electric vehicles. Prototype for police. It was mentioned that the city of Bath did a study and found that their police vehicles idle roughly 60% of the time using $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon of gas/hour. A hybrid would use roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a gallon of gas in the same amount of time. Bill S suggested putting the charging stations out front of the Town Hall – good PR. The motion was made to accept the offer to lease up to two electric vehicles, Hyundai Kona SUV's, from Rowe Ford of Westbrook. Vote was unanimous to accept motion.
- CAP Phase 1 (Riva) – second round of draft version was sent to all members for feedback. Minor editorial/formatting changes needed. Denny made motion to forward final version of CAP Phase 1 to Town Council and MSAD 51 board of directors for implementation. Vote was unanimous to accept motion.
- Conservation Subdivision – Ross Estates off Blanchard Rd – 3 –lot subdivision. This was to be the first conservation subdivision, but Planning Board appears to be leaning towards a traditional subdivision. Comments:
 - Language in ordinance needs to be strengthened. Mike and John recommended this should be a conservation subdivision.
 - Bill S mentioned that the Planning Board should make a decision at first meeting which type of subdivision.
 - There is a vernal pool in the middle of the property.
 - John will draft the LCC recommendations concerning the subdivision for submission to Carla (Town Planner) – for next workshop.
 - Mike and John both plan on attending next workshop (and were at previous one).
 - Subdivision type should seek LCC input. Bill S suggested Mike give a heads up to Paul of Planning Board.
 - A lot of connectivity potential with other properties for trails.See summary in Trails Subcommittee report below.
- iMapInvasives webinar for mapping invasive species February 18th – $\frac{1}{2}$ day online.
- Invasive Plant Academy 5/19, 20, 25th. Need to be registered. Paul (forester) already signed up. Sam expressed interest.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Area surrounding Bailey Field was recently cut by Suburban Little League. They claim that it was too overgrown and balls were getting lost. Part of the Town Forest Nature Trail went through this area and had plants cut out. It was suggested that perhaps signs be put up indicating the sensitivity of the area and plants should not be removed or cut without permission. Also put some sort of notice in the Crier and larger indicators of where specimens are. Mike and Ellen will discuss best way to handle this.
- Mike asked the various subcommittees to write up plans for the coming year.
- Town Forest/ Nature Trail/ BFG (Mike and Ellen)
 - The following is a comprehensive (although dynamic) list of items that are waiting to be done in the Town Forest, Nature Trail or the BFG. Some were planned as to-do items for 2021:
 - Remove orange tap put up to mark plants in the grinding area (Mike and Ellen)
 - Hand prune around plants that were “saved” from the grinder (Mike and Ellen)
 - Put up red diamonds and arrows to indicate where the Red Trail is through the woods (Mike and Ellen)
 - Replace the sign (need a new sign) that was destroyed by the falling trees (Town - spring) indicating distance to BFG and vernal pool on Red trail
 - Place a red arrow when you come out of the woods facing the new salt shed to show where the trail goes (Mike and Ellen if this can be put on a tree can be done now; Town if we need a post - spring)
 - Place a post with a red arrow on the Red Trail in the field passed the vernal pool to indicated that the trail continues behind the dirt pile (Town - spring)
 - Pave path that leads from driveway by solar farm fence along Drowne Rd to the kiosk (Town - spring)
 - Move sign up the hill along Drowne Rd to point to the driveway by solar farm fence so people know where to enter forest (Town - spring)
 - Need aerial photo showing new salt shed/brush dump area so map can be updated (Town - when?)
 - New map at both kiosks showing new salt shed/ brush dump area with the updated trails (Town - when?)
 - Mark all storyboard locations and the new benches with iPad (Ellen - can be done now)
 - Need to treat the storyboard locations as a separate layer (Judy - before publish)
 - Need to get pictures where appropriate of plants along the Nature Trail (Ellen - spring/summer when in bloom)
 - Need to check that specimens survived winter/grinding along Nature Trail to finalize (Mike/Ellen - spring)
 - Need to notify public of Nature Trail and figure out ways to protect without be obtrusive (Mike/Ellen – spring)
 - Need to have Judy turn off displaying the specimens designated as "no display" in Nature Trail (Judy - before publish)
 - Need to add Nature Trail and Story Board walk to online map website (Judy - when done)



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

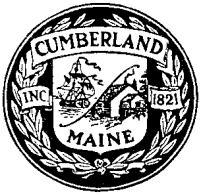
- Plant trees/shrubs in area that has been grounded this year and previously (Volunteers – spring)
 - Update Maine Trail Finders with latest trail information (Ellen – after new maps are up)
 - Put up bat/birdhouses by BFG (Mike and Ellen – spring)
 - Perhaps have BFG designated Backyard Habitat (Mike and Ellen)
- Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John) - summarized from John's notes:
 - John was selected as subcommittee chair again.
 - Conservation subdivision/ Ross Estates – Ross Estates is a proposed 3-lot minor subdivision off Blanchard Road Extension. The Planning Board held a workshop in January to decide whether the property was best suited for a traditional subdivision or a conservation subdivision. John spoke on behalf of the Commission, recommending that the property be developed as a conservation subdivision. The Conservation Subdivision ordinance requires that half the area be set aside for conservation. Under the Conservation Subdivision ordinance, the proposed lots would be two acres and very comparable to those in the nearby Stonegate subdivision. In addition, a large portion of the proposed conservation area would abut conserved open space in the Stonegate subdivision. Due to technical problems, time was limited during the workshop and the Planning Board decided to continue the workshop as part of the February meeting.
 - Farwell Avenue – Work continued on the easement from Farwell Avenue to MSAD 51 property. At the landowners' request, the width of the proposed easement was narrowed from 20 feet to 15 feet. The proposed final easement is currently being finalized.
 - Trail conditions – The recent cold weather has hardened many of the trails that softened during the abnormally warm January conditions. Some areas have significant frost heaves which will need to be monitored in the spring for trail damage which could lead to possible closures. Trails continued to be used heavily this winter.
 - Knight's Pond and Greely Woods – nothing new to report.
 - Rines Forest – Public works took down two trees that were over the trails. Steve Fitzgerald and John have been working on plans for new bridges and walkways. If the weather cooperates, Steve and John hope to complete work on at least one of the bridges in the spring prior to bug season.
 - Trail mapping – Ellen, John, Mike and Bill S have been working with Spatial Alternatives in Yarmouth (Judy Colby-George) to put better trail and public land information online. Ellen and John GPS-ed all of the Town's trails (and sidewalk trails) and hope to start documenting other trail information soon. Once complete, the trail mapping will look similar to that available for Falmouth.
 - Roadside trail signs– This year, the Trails Subcommittee hopes to increase the number of trail signs along the roadways to help residents know where pedestrian trails are located. Permission is needed for any trail signs on private property and John has a number of signs from the State to let people know that they should respect private property.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- Trail Closures – Cumberland’s Trail Construction and Maintenance Standards allow for the closure of trails to prevent significant damage to the trails or for safety reasons. The Trails Subcommittee is looking for input from the Commission and Forestry Subcommittee members on recommendations on closure criteria including conditions requiring closure, whether trails are closed for all uses or specific uses, whether all trails are closed on property or only specific trails, who makes the decision to close a trail, how we notify the public, and whether signs or physical barriers are placed on the trails.
- Denny mentioned Avenza – an application to allow the user to follow their location on a map. Needs to be looked into further – question as to how to get trails in the app.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (from Denny’s notes)
 - New member John Leavitt introduced himself. He has a degree in forest management technology from UMaine. He has worked as a forest ranger for the Maine Forest Service for 22-years.
 - Denny shared USDA map of soils from the Town Forest and adjacent field. It was noticed that about 2/3 of the forested area is comprised of Scantic soils which are not well suited for growing timber – not very fertile, poorly drained.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- A map was reviewed of different stands in the Town Forest that had been identified in the 2011 Forest Management plan prepared by IFM. The total forested area is 67 acres. Stand 3 (6 acres) in the middle of the forest and south of the landfill is entirely Scantic and thus thinly stocked with low quality stems of poplar, white pine and red maple. As such, the understory is dominated by invasives and is the area of focus this winter for treatment.
- Dan is doing a great job with the grinder, making a special effort to save smaller trees and work around special plants that can be hand-cut at a later date. Next steps: herbicide treatment in the late summer/fall followed by one or two more years of grinding and treatment before the open areas can be replanted. The Town will monitor sites next year to track results and plan on future treatments.
- Paul discussed the status of Jeff Storey's harvest plan for Twin Brook this winter. Jeff proposed bringing in a feller-buncher because he is behind schedule. May need to revisit the entire management plan, review the operations and make sure the Town has submitter proper notification with the Maine Forest Service for any harvest.
- Bill Shane, Paul, and Denny will meet with Jeff to discuss possible next steps, including bringing the management and operations back under the purview of the Forest subcommittee under Paul's guidance thereby giving the Town more oversight of the forest; and the Town can still provide certain amenities to Jeff and the farm, such as firewood.
- Paul has completed timber inventory for Knight's Pond. Well stocked with some stands possibly overstocked. Growing well, good soils, and no invasive plants. Carbon levels impressive – about 3x area average for carbon stocking. Stands have been delineated. Next steps: Walk forest, considering guiding principles and as a group determine management recommendation so Paul can write up a management plan.
- Inventory is not yet completed for the recent addition to Rines Forest. Per the Project Canopy grant, the Subcommittee has until October 31, 2021 to complete the FMPs for both Rines and Knight's Pond.
- Climate Action Subcommittee (From Denny's notes)
 - Riva discussed the current CAP draft which encompasses all comments received since the previous meeting from LCC and CAP members. Will go to LCC for approval in their February meeting. Mark and Ivy asked about ways to communicate the CAP. It was agreed that such efforts should not commence until the Town Council has received and had a chance to discuss. Mark will work on a short form version for a PowerPoint presentation.
 - Denny discussed his meeting last week with Scott Poulin, MSAD 51 Director of Finance and Operations. Scott had reviewed the current draft and was familiar with the action items. He recommended that once MSAD51 Board had received the CAP, the CAPSC should make a presentation at one of its regular public meetings.
 - As one of the CAP action items is tree planting, we reviewed the program this winter to combat invasives in the Town Forest. The treatment will be to grind and shred the invasive understory (primary buckthorn) in Stand 3 of the Forest Management Plan (roughly six acres). Every effort



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

will be made to retain standing trees and saplings, although sparsely populated throughout the stand. In the summer the cleared area will be treated with glyphosate to eliminate regeneration. This treatment will be followed up by replanting of native species suitable for scanty soils such as red and black spruce, swamp maple, balsam fir and others. The Forestry Subcommittee will likely submit a Project Canopy grant application for this and other tree planting projects in Town.

- Ivy asked if the LCC could consider a plan to remove the large number of blow downs in the red/scotch pine area of the Town Forest.
- The CAPCS unanimously supported a recommendation by the Town Manager to acquire by lease up to two Hyundai Kona SUV's (electrical vehicles) for municipal use.
- Denny in LCC meeting mention in this year concentrate on Phase 2 of the CAP – households and businesses where 80% of the emissions emanate from. Need community outreach – use of heat pumps, hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Invasive species – (Mike) – mentioned that it might be a challenge replanting in the Town Forest where grinding had occurred due to the poor nature of the soil.
- Farmland assessment (Mike) – Judy still working on maps. Need to see how accurate the land maps are.
- Brown Tail moth (Bill S) – Bill pointed out that Cumberland is the center of the infestation for Brown Tail moths. Bill will meet with Forest Service to discuss other approaches besides spraying which is costly and not very effective.
- Next meeting March 3rd, 2021, 7:30.