

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: October 12, 2021

(\*\* = town manager; \* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++ = Code enforcement officer; <sup>(T)</sup> = trails SC; <sup>(F)</sup> = forest SC)

Bill Shane\*\* ; Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; Mark Segrist +; Allison Foster+

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)

Sam York (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> Ted Chadbourne

<sup>(T)</sup> Shaun Breton

Jenn Grasso

David Young

<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott

<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald

Matt Grondin (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> \*Denny Gallaudet ✓

<sup>(T)</sup> \*John Jensenius ✓

Ellen Hoffman

<sup>(F)</sup> John Leavitt

<sup>(T)</sup> Matthew Leclair ✓

John Jensenius <sup>vice\*</sup>

<sup>(F)</sup> Gordon Lichter

<sup>(T)</sup> Brian Stearns

Riva Krut

<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam

<sup>(T)</sup> John Stewart

\*Mike Schwindt

<sup>(F)</sup> Sally Stockwell

<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell

Climate Action Subcommittee:

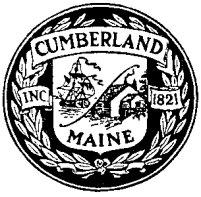
Sukie Curtis, Jennifer Grasso, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Ivy Frignoca, Mark Segrist

**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 October 6th, 2021

- September minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually.
- Town Council (Mark)
  - Comprehensive Plan – where does the Town Council want to start with the plan: from scratch or tweak previous plan? Need to update with Climate Action. Maybe start with a Town survey.
  - Working on goal setting priorities – indication of how the Council is thinking, long term planning. Make sure Council is committed to the actions in the Climate Action Plan. Need to schedule a workshop this month with LCC for work plan update, basic check-in.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report (Bill L and summarized from Bill L’s notes):
    - During the month of September 2021, 43 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; 32 permits have been issued.
    - Christmas Creek – under construction; 18 building permits issued.
    - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – six building permits issued.
    - Blanchard Oaks – Off Blanchard Road Ext. has begun tree clearing and road construction.



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- Planning Board meeting scheduled for October 19th 2021:
  - Preliminary and Final Plan review for the three lots off Blanchard Road Ext. (Ross Estates)
  - Rines Forest parking lot – 10 spaces
  - Mr. Banfield zone change request off Old Gray Road at Gray Road. Addition of one more residential lot change from VOC to VMDR.
  - Broad Cove Ridge – Finalizing Planning Board conditions awaiting Pre-Con Mtg also change in ownership and from condos to apartments.
  - 226 Greely Road – Town of Cumberland gravel storage pad .998 of an acre at Yarmouth Water property as per sale agreement with North Yarmouth property.
- Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
  - New school building for MSAD 51
  - Cutting issue in the “no disturb buffer” at Blanchard Oaks near lots 7&8 alongside of Orchard Road subdivision Cortland Ct. Replanting plan (Paul L) to follow. Bill S – need to return to flagging limits. Surveying electronically has proved problematic.
- Remote meetings (Bill S) – now all primary meetings need to be held in-person. Remote (Zoom) and hybrid meetings need to be authorized and open to the public (link available on Town website), and created from Town account. Sub-committee meetings and emergency meetings can be held remotely. More information will be forth coming.
- Rines Forest Parking Lot (Bill S) – Area has good site lines. Section by road will be paved with reclaimed asphalt and rest gravel. 10 spaces, single stack. Work will start now with grinding and finish in the spring. John mentioned that you can currently drive in. Questioned if there will be a gate at the end (so can’t drive through to Green Trail). The plan does show a gate. John made motion to recommend to Planning Board to accept 10 spot parking lot as shown in diagram. Denny seconded. Vote Unanimous.
- Workshop (Bill S) – LCC and Town Council need workshop separate from regular meeting night. Discuss direction and give feedback and set priorities. Discuss relationship with North Yarmouth. How growth impacts both towns. Periodic check-in, don’t want to miss anything. Long term – next phase of Climate Action, timelines. What is needed to make things happen, coordination, policy procedures, how the Town works.
- MSAD51 (Bill S) – Want to try and avoid changes to Tuttle Rd, don’t want three lanes. No new growth at current school campus.



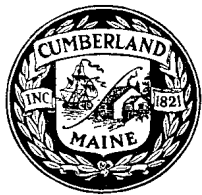
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- Eagle Scout project to build kiosks – still have not seen plans or how many will be built. Mentioned that all kiosks should look similar. Question as to who decides where they should go.
- Conservation Subdivision ordinance (Mike) – Currently stalled out. Mike has recommended individuals to work with the Planning Board but nothing has been scheduled. Something needs to be done. Allison will take with Bob V. and Mark with talk with Tom. Agenda item to discuss?
- Open Season
  - Composting (Riva) – Riva will draft article for Crier of importance of composting. Allison mentioned that the budget process starts in February if plan is to get composting costs before Finance committee. Allison also mentioned that schools currently not composting due to COVID. Matt G mentioned that Ecomaine has pails for their food waste program. Info printed on pail as to the dos and don'ts of food composting. The pails also have a snap on lid and can fit on a counter. Riva's PowerPoint presentation follows:

### Composting – Intro Notes

- CAP members expressed an interest to promote composting, particularly community food composting, as part of our commitment to Sustainable Cumberland
- Composting fits clearly into the recent Town Council interest in food security for the Town.
- Food composting has strong benefits for the environment AND saves money as fewer green bags are needed for regular waste.
- Local peers are piloting community composting (Falmouth, N Yarmouth, Yarmouth)
- Cumberland Town Public Works
  - Estimates food waste is 40% of all waste in Cumberland. Elimination from landfill will save est. annual 680 MT and \$52k waste disposal costs and reduce CO2 emissions
  - Is very interested and engaged with the idea of food composting
  - Has an active composting program (yard + garden waste, some vegetable waste) at the Public Works Brush & Compost Facility (B&CF)
- Unknown # individual households with their own composting
- Cumberland Garbage to Garden (household subscription model) serves est. 500 households (est. 17% town households), despite passive marketing. Also serves MSAD 51 and several businesses. Outside of Cumberland they serve multiple customers including several towns.

#### Going forward: What makes sense for Cumberland?



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## Building a Common Understanding

### DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF COMPOST

- CUMBERLAND – commercial curbside pickup program (Garbage to Garden), accepts food, paper, food oils
- CUMBERLAND Town facility – compost currently is yard and garden waste; some vegetable food waste

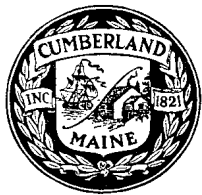
### DIFFERENT MODELS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

- Town model
  - Would need additional modest investment
  - Centralizes service and assures service quality. Drop-off is further away, requires active resident participation
  - Can run well alongside current curbside pickup system, and support the latter
- Curbside pickup
  - Running well in Cumberland for homes, school and some businesses, despite commercial fee and no marketing.
  - Vendor is flexible and eager to work with Town
- Community drop-off model
  - Being piloted in Falmouth, Portland, etc. Falmouth program seems to work using [Wecomposit.com](http://Wecomposit.com) - see lessons there
  - Continuous maintenance + Quality Assurance are issues: smells, bugs, rodents, animals. Makes sense in an urban high density environment (Portland). May make less sense in rural low density environment

## Composting models – draft 1 proposal from the CAP

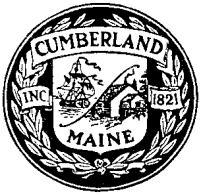
### Support a stronger Town composting program, aligned with and supporting current Household Curbside collection

Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current Town B&amp;CF could be expanded to include food waste (potentially half of all food waste).</li><li>• Management of food waste would be maintained by existing processes + resources on a daily basis.</li><li>• Residents would bring their compost to the B&amp;CF, using current annual or day pass</li><li>• Town can consider promoting and communicating all compost activities, including the existing curbside pickup (we see programs as complementary. Communication should increase participation in both programs and improve compliance with rules)</li></ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refine proposal to expand Public Works services at the B&amp;CF. Example of issues<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$80k capital cost for tub grinder, likely ~2 year payback (TBC)</li><li>• Small added weekly labor (~4 hours); + some admin. (DEP license modification adding food waste)</li><li>• Winter issues TBD with PW (4 winter months)</li><li>• Issues of participant compliance with B&amp;CF rules, e.g. to adhere to access rules</li></ul></li></ul>



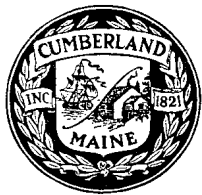
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- Rines Forest kiosk – built by Sam Kern and his mother requested a memorial plaque put on kiosk.
- Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John and taken from John's notes)
  - Knight's Pond
    - Someone rode a 4-wheeler through a wet area on the Snowmobile Trail in Knight's Pond. While the damage is in North Yarmouth, it is very likely the person also rode through the Cumberland side of the trail. Bill suggested filing a police report with the Cumberland PD when there is evidence of this happening. Send photo with report.
    - John installed a roadside trail sign and map holder at the Pleasant Valley Road entrance to the Preserve.
    - The Trails Subcommittee and CCLT would like to streamline procedures when it comes to maintenance and construction of trails in Knight's Pond. The subcommittee will propose standards to be used for trail construction and maintenance to the Joint Standing Committee. If approved, the Subcommittee would like to simply follow these standards rather than getting approval from the JSC for every construction or maintenance issues. Bill S proposed creating a regularly scheduled meeting with JST.
  - Rines Forest
    - Steve and John built a 76 foot walkway across the wet area on the trail near the proposed parking area. Plans are to extend the walkway another 24 feet.
    - Construction of a new trail parallel to Range Road that will allow access from the Snowmobile Trail to the future parking area is expected to start later this month.
    - Plans are to change trail color signage to provide consistent "through trail" colors, to mark currently unmarked trails, and to have the "Loop Trail" pass through the future parking area. These changes will be coordinated with CCLT to ensure consistency with both printed and posted maps. The changes are expected to occur late this fall or next spring. Ellen pointed out that any trail color changes would need to be reflected in the online GIS currently in the works as well as any name changes to reflect the new color.
    - The snowmobile club will be installing a kiosk on the Waterhouse property near the intersection on the Rines and Godsoe properties. They will provide some room on the kiosk for a Rines Forest map.
  - Broad Cove/Spears Hill Trail
    - CCLT is still working out issues with the homeowners in the area. Once these issues have been resolved, a trail sign will be posted at the entrance to the trail in Broad Cove.
  - Firebird Trail Race
    - Organizers indicated that the race went well with only one minor concern. They also indicated that they are planning a race for next year with a slightly different route. John will contact organizers for more details.



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- Mountain Bike Association Request
  - The Town received a request form the Greater Portland chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association for permission to have a group ride (20-40 bikers) through many of the Town's trails in late October. While the Trails subcommittee is working to make the trails more sustainable for this type of activity, the uncertainty of trail conditions that far in advance is problematic.
- Twin Brooks (Ellen)
  - There has been no update or movement on the maps for the kiosk or the trail signs. Should the Trails Subcommittee and LCC just take the initiative on this and use the GIS information from Judy to create new maps? Need to improve so they don't fade. What should be done with the kiosk at the Wilderness Trail? Currently there is no map, but is a kiosk even needed?
- Denny questioned if there was any update on getting a contract between the Town and the Snowmobile association. Nothing is happening in that area.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
  - Good session with Paul L and discussing plans for the future. North-west slope of Knight's Pond will be a low impact harvest. Problem with erosion coming from Greely Road Ext; this needs to be addressed before going forward with a harvest.
  - Broad Cove – there are many streams from Cumberland feeding into Broad Cove. Which streams have impact? What is going on in terms of erosion? Need to be good stewards of the land to protect the health of Broad Cove which is relatively shallow. Eel grass beds act as carbon sinks. Bill S mentioned that there is a culvert under Route 88. Where is the fecal coliform coming from? With as little as ½" rain, can result in poor water quality. There is a Healthy Beaches group that is working with the Town.
  - Twin Brook – Bill S walked Twin Brook with Paul. There will be no further cutting until we get a handle on the invasive species. Need to update Management Plan to focus on invasive plant control. Town Council needs to receive a recommendation to this affect as well as changing relationship with Jeff Storey. Denny mentioned that Jeff's contract is coming to an end.
- Climate Action Subcommittee (Riva/Denny)
  - Half way though Phase 2 of the Climate Action Plan. Need to reach out to the community at large and the business community. Send out a survey collecting basic facts, and let the community know what the Town is doing in terms of climate action.
  - Riva discussed a meeting she had with Adam Lee (Town resident and CEO of Lee Auto). Adam foresees strong growth in the adoption of EVs and PHEVs. Models are now available across the full price range and more are coming to market. He mentioned that PHEVs such as the RAV4 plug-in hybrid have a carbon footprint almost equivalent to EVs and could be more appropriate for Maine given the cold climate and ow population density. Town government has only a limited role to play in adoption relative to state and federal governments. Investment in charging



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stations is not really needed as most charging will be done at home. Positive PR can help via the Crier and Forecaster. He recommends showcasing the use of EVs and hybrids by the Police Department. Yearly fleet refresh by the Police Department will bring in new hybrids – high performance vehicles.

- Invasive plants (Mike)
  - Two days' worth of work spraying of last year's cut areas in the Town Forest as well as the road down to the salt shed (along the Red Trail).
  - There was no roadside spraying this year.
  - Mike mentioned that Canadian thistle is becoming pervasive especially around the compost area and will spread if not cut back before going to seed.
  - Paul L recommended a line of demarcation by Spring Brook Farm by the Wilderness Trail – cut back this year and spray next.
  - Denny - Recommended information signs be put up before work begins next year so users of the trails will know what is going on.
  - Moss Side Cemetery (John) – off of Crestwood Dr. is beginning to look like a jungle. Needs to be cleaned up before invasive plants completely take over.
  - Bill S – need to get a handle on what our next steps will be tackling invasive plants. Need strategy for going forward.
- Farmland assessment (Dave) – No update
- Next meeting November 3rd, 2021 - 7:00 PM.