



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: March 5, 2022

(** = town manager; * = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++ = Code enforcement officer; (T) = trails SC; (F) = forest SC)

Bill Shane**, Bill Longley ++ (abs); Tom Gruber + ; Mark Segrist +(abs); Allison Foster+

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell (abs)	George Turner (abs)	(F) Ted Chadbourne	(T) Shaun Breton
Matt Grondin	Pete Wilson	(F) Melissa Cott	(T) Stephen Fitzgerald
Ellen Hoffman	David Young (abs)	(F) John Leavitt	(T) *John Jensenius ✓
John Jensenius vice*		(F) *Gordon Lichter ✓	(T) Matthew Leclair
Riva Krut		(F) Linda Putnam	(T) Brian Stearns
*Mike Schwindt		(F) Sally Stockwell	(T) John Stewart
			(T) Don Stowell

Sustainability Subcommittee:

Sukie Curtis, Jenn Grasso, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denny Gallaudet/, Riva Krut, Ivy Frignoca

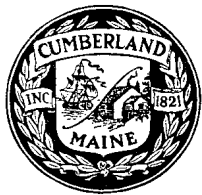
Note: Only members of the Commission and voting members of the subcommittees need attend. “✓” indicates subcommittee member attended Commission meeting.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting March 2, 2022. Meeting held via Zoom. Andrew Bilodeau (Eagle Scout Troop 648) was also in attendance.

- February minutes were approved as written.
- Andrew Bilodeau attended the meeting to give a presentation on the kiosks he will be constructing for his Eagle Scout project. He will be constructing six kiosks to be placed in Cumberland and North Yarmouth. He will commence construction around March 15th and hopes to be finished by May 15th. He will review locations and placements and check with dig safe along the way. Question as to the size and what we would like the roof material to be (metal, wood shingles or asphalt). John will check dimensions and roofing material at the kiosks at Town Forest, Knights Pond and Rines and query members as to their preference for the roofing material.
 - Subsequent to our meeting, John has surveyed the kiosks:

Twin Brook – Greely Rd	68 x 41	Wood shingles on plywood
Twin Brook – Tuttle Rd	72 x 48	Asphalt shingles on plywood
(There is a third kiosk at the Wilderness Trail – Greely Rd that should be replaced by a map box)		
Town Forest – Town Hall	66 x 42	Wood shingles
Town Forest – Drowne Rd	74 x 33	Wood shingles
Rines Forest – Range Rd	72 x 48	Wood shingles on plywood
Prince Memorial Library		
 - John recommends the size be 72 x 48
 - As of this writing, all responders have preferred wood shingles.
- **Town Council** (Allison)
 - Survey is now active and responses are coming in.

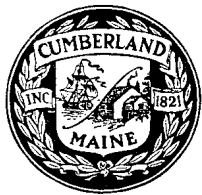


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- Budgeting process is underway. Not yet at the LCC budget request.

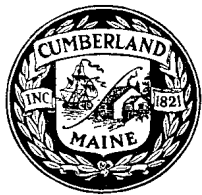
○ **Commission** (Mike)

- Bill report (Bill S and summarized from Bill L's notes):
 - During the month of February 2022, 25 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; 37 permits have been issued. All lots have been reserved in Phase I.
 - Christmas Creek – under construction; 19 building permits issued.
 - Orchard Rd - Cortland Court – seven building permits issued.
 - Blanchard Oaks – Peaceful Way – six building permits issued and all 13 lots are sold or pending sale per the developer. Base coat of paving was delayed due to weather until spring.
 - Planning Board meeting scheduled for March will include:
 - FY 2023 to FY 2027 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) – opportunity to recommend to Town Council capital projects.
 - 2021 Growth Permits review - Bill remarked that most of growth is due to turnover.
 - The “Mark” (previously Broad Cove Ridge) – 42 condos instead of 50 apartments amendment for changes and new design and to reduce parking for fewer units.
 - Update Shoreland Zoning to comply with State changes.
 - Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - Oceanview Phase II – proposed revision to storm water plan
 - Coastal Landscaping proposed changes at Middle Road location
 - 10-Lot subdivision between 1-95 & Old Gray Road in the VMDR zone.
 - Possibility of a traffic circle at the Skillins/Blackstrap Rd intersection. Plan for economic development. Business district. Extend sidewalks. Safety enhancements. Look and work with DOT for funding.
 - Mike asked Bill to send a copy of the CIP (there is no budget attached).
- Riva brought up the issue of affordable housing. Bill mentioned that there are 49 units in Crossing Brook and another 30 or so at Castle Rock in West Cumberland. Cumberland does not use a quota system, all accessory dwellings allowed (e.g. in-law apartments). Exclusionary zoning. Subsequently Denny reported:



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- Common definition of affordable housing is when housing costs of the median value home are not more than 30% of median household income. Housing costs include mortgage, insurance and taxes.
- Based on the most recent census data, that percentage is:
 - 20% for the State of Maine
 - 25% for the Town of Cumberland
- Details for the Town of Cumberland are (2015-2019 median):
 - \$111,890 median household income, annual
 - \$376,400 median home value
 - \$1,740 housing costs, monthly
- Assuming median home value were now 20% higher, the percentage would be 29% but still “affordable”.
- Budget (Mike/Bill S) – LCC requesting \$112,000 for fiscal 2023.
 - Bill said some of LCC request should really be under Public Work’s budget
 - Need to prioritize
 - Town look at acquiring a master pesticide license – work with Val Halla staff.
 - Items benefit multiple departments
 - Bill suggested that Mike (or other LCC members) come to next budget meeting and explain thought behind request. Council needs to understand full impact.
 - Sustainability Coordinator
 - Idea of a sustainability coordinator could be problematic with new school. Questioned if this position be shared with other towns?
 - Riva – Sustainability coordinator should be a paid position, not a volunteer. Need to show cost benefit, galvanize change. The benefits are many: environmental, food security, affordable housing. Noted that Falmouth has a sustainability coordinator as a full time position.
 - Denny – GPCOG has a Resilience Corps – a partnership between GPCOG and AmeriCorps to support local government agencies and regional cohorts in the Greater Portland area through a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region.
 - Riva requested a list from Bill of project/tasks that would have benefited from having a coordinator.



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- Mike, Denny and Riva will meet to prepare information for the sustainability coordinator for next year.
- Allison – what do we envision role doing – need to fully commit to process.

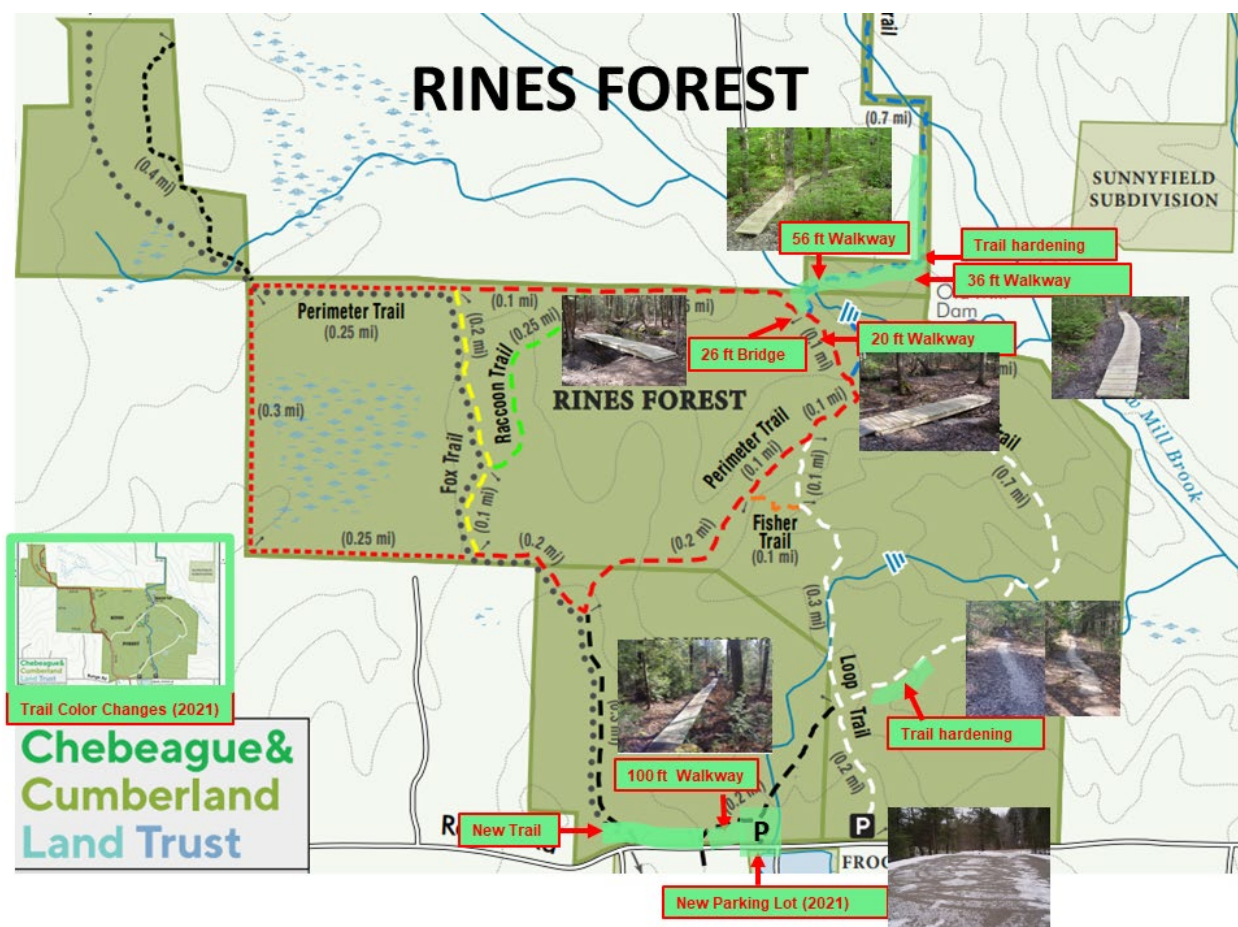
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	N
1	Lands and Conservation Commission FY : Year Ended 6/30											
2		2022	2023	2024								
3	Activity (brief description):											
4	Town Forest											
5	"Recent sightings" dispoay		250									
6	signs		400									
7	kiosk maps		2,400									
8												
9												
10		100										
11												
12	GPS Trails											
13	Consultant time		400									
14												
15	Invasive Management											
16			10,000									
17	Trails											
18	Pines Forest Including Godsoe Property		2,400									
19	Greely Woods											
20	Miscellaneous		250									
21	Knight's Pond											
22												
23	Forestry											
24	Town Forester meeting attendance		1,100									
25	Town Forester Twin Brook plan updateae		5,500									
26	Town Forester boundary blazing at Twin Brook, Pines		4,400									
27	Invasives grant proposal		1,500									
28	Five informational signs		2,000									
29												
30	Climate Action Plan											
31	Compost grinder		80,000									
32	Lawn pilot Program		5,000									
33	Sustainability staff position											
34	Engineering study											
35												
36	Food Independence											
37	Raised beds	1	500									
38	Orchard		2,500									
39	Locate resources for acquiring easements, rights of refusal, et		1,000									
40												
41												
42												
43	Total 2022 FY 2023 budget requ	101	119,600									
44			(80,000)									
45			39,600									
46			(20,000)									
47			19,600									
48												
49	2022 LCC FY 2023A Budget request											
50												

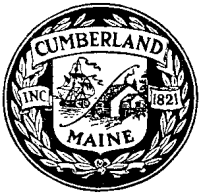
- Regional contract – looking at for potential waste pickup with other towns using EcoMaine, cheaper than current collector.
- Work plans – below is the FY 2021 accomplishments and consolidated work plans for FY 2022 and 2023:



Lands and Conservation Commission
2021 Accomplishments, Transition Work Plans,
and Draft FY 2023 Work Plans
March 2, 2022

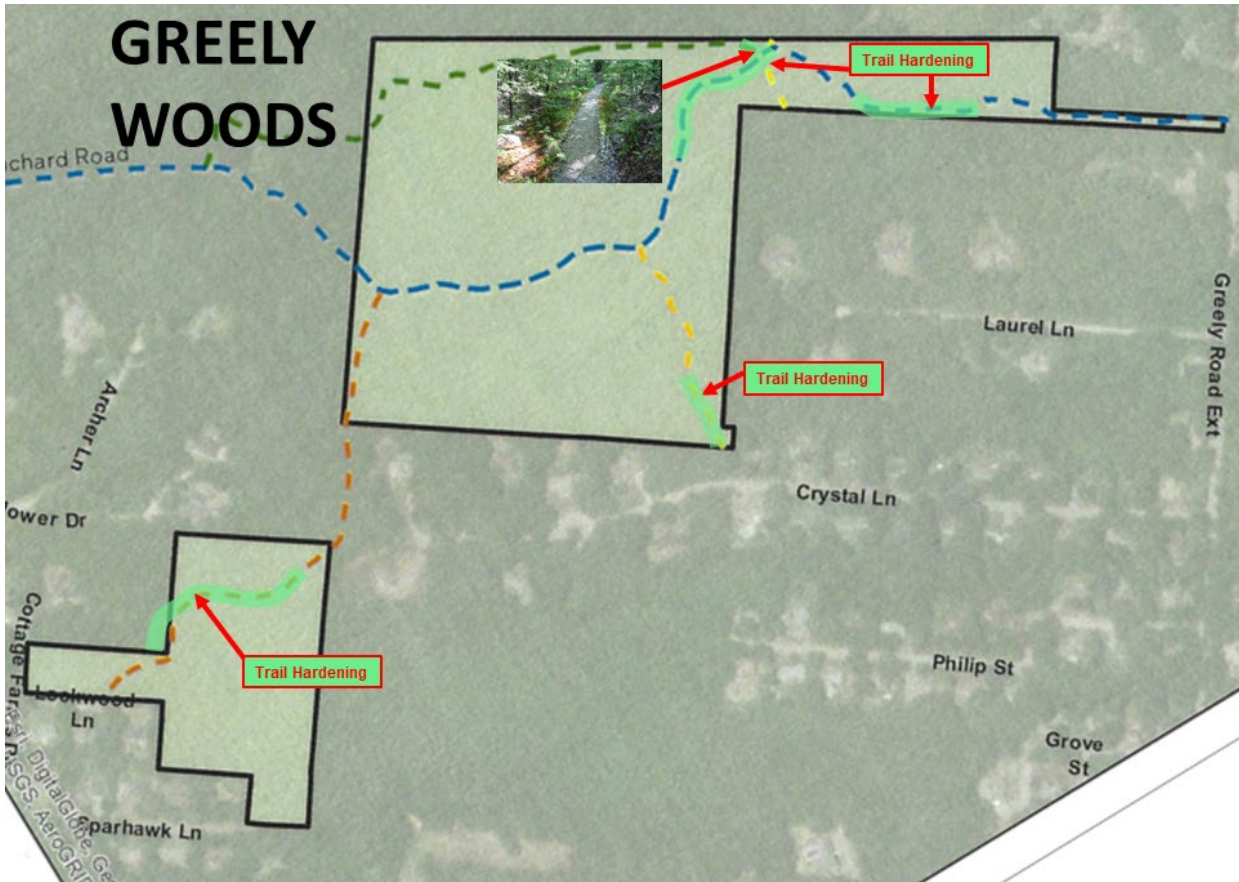
- Rines Forest - During CY 2021, The Recreational Trails Subcommittee continued its efforts to build and maintain sustainable trails in Rines Forest. During the year, the Trails Subcommittee built about 240 feet of walkways and bridges over wet areas. In addition, the Trails Subcommittee hardened hundreds of feet of soft or muddy trails with gravel. In conjunction with the Town building a 10-space parking lot, the subcommittee created a new trail connecting the parking lot to the snowmobile trail. Finally, as part of an effort to standardize trail colors on Town-owned properties, the subcommittee changed the colors of trail markers throughout Rines Forest. The Trails Subcommittee worked with the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust to update the trail maps that are available at the kiosks.





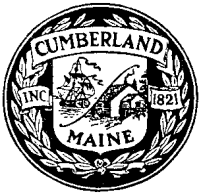
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- Greely Woods – Greely Woods continued to see an increase in usage during 2021. This led to several trails becoming increasingly soft and muddy and the need for trail hardening.



- Farwell Avenue Easement - During the year, the Subcommittee also worked to finalize a trail easement across private property from Farwell Avenue to MSAD 51 property.
- The Subcommittee, along with LCC members, hardened a trail through the property and on MSAD 51 property.



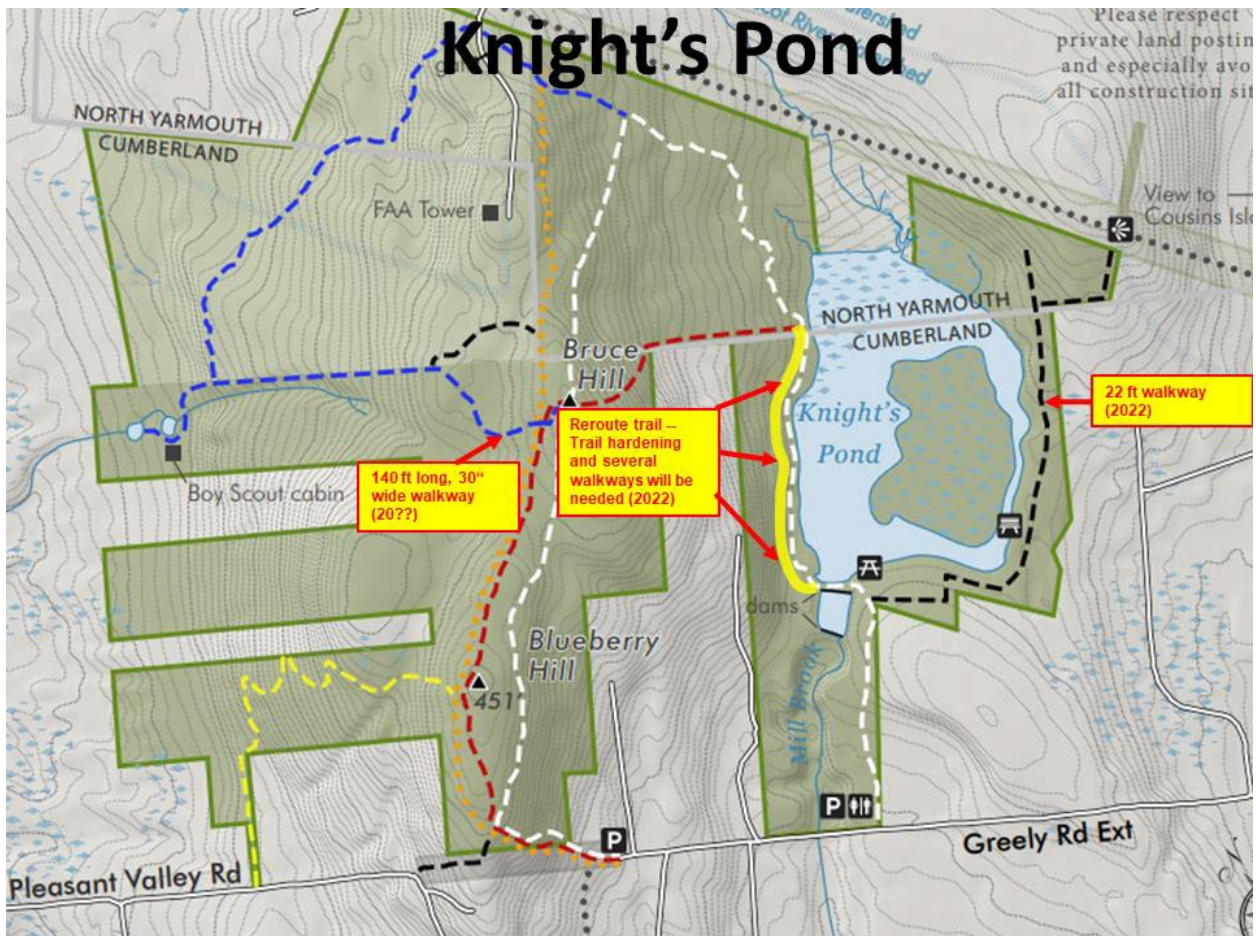


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Recreational Trails Subcommittee Transition Work Plan FY 2022 and FY 2023

- During the remainder of FY 2021-22, the Recreational Trails Subcommittee plans to continue its efforts to build and maintain sustainable trails on Town-owned properties. The following maps outline work plans for Knight's Pond, Rines Forest, and Greely Woods. Weather, ground conditions and possible insect infestations may affect the order in which these projects will be started, but initial plans are to start the work at Knight's Pond.
- During the remainder of FY 2022, efforts will be focused on relocating the trail along the northwest side of Knight's Pond and building any necessary bridges and walkways. In addition, the 22 ft. walkway on the southeast side of the pond is expected to be completed. Depending on funding, the 140 ft. walkway over the wet area on the Blue Trail near the ridgeline may also get done. While these projects will be started during the FY 2022, work on the trail relocation will likely carry over into FY 2023.

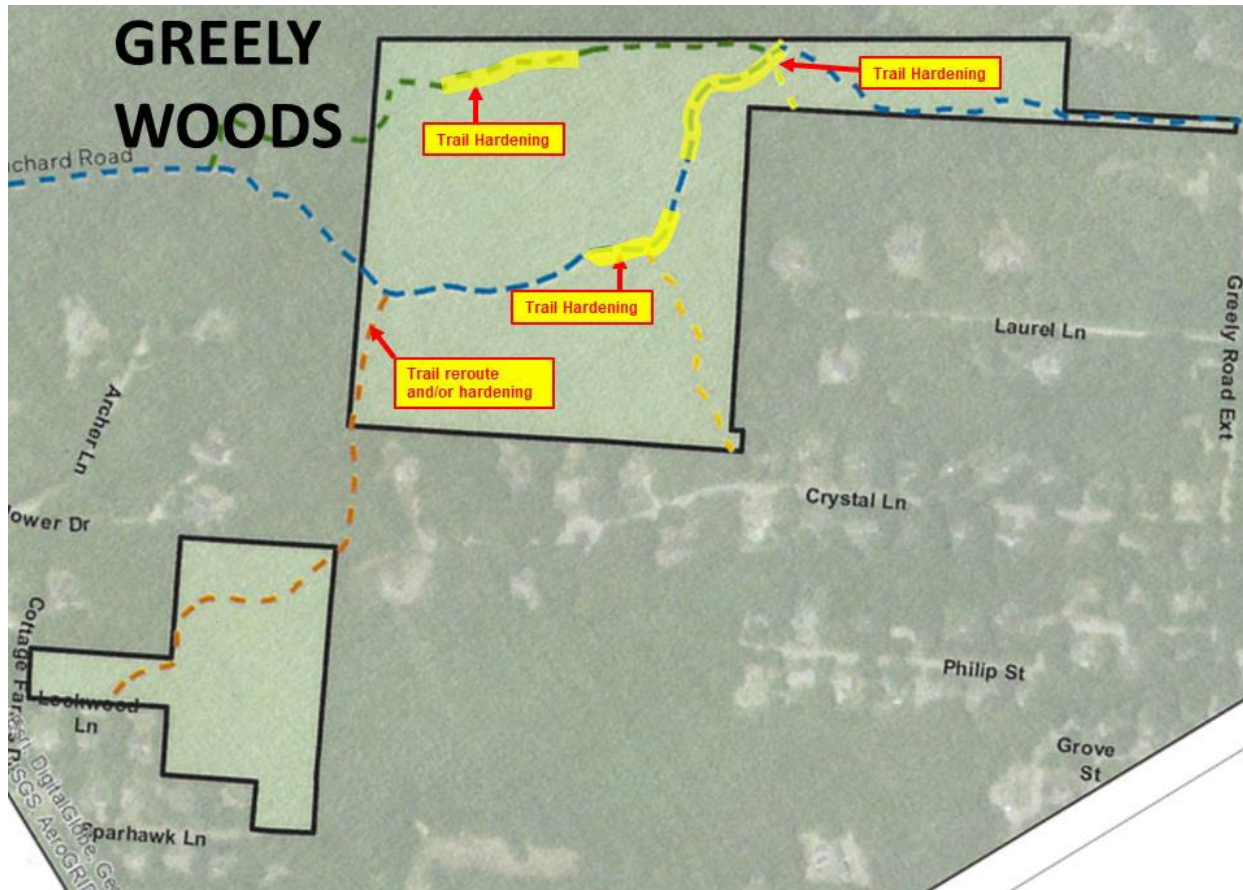
- Knights Pond



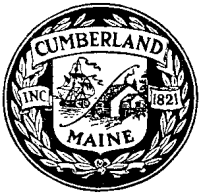
- Greely Woods – Trail hardening will be an ongoing effort for the remainder of FY 2022 and all of FY 2023. Changing/deteriorating trail conditions will determine the work to be done and available resources (manpower and gravel) will determine how quickly this work can be accomplished.



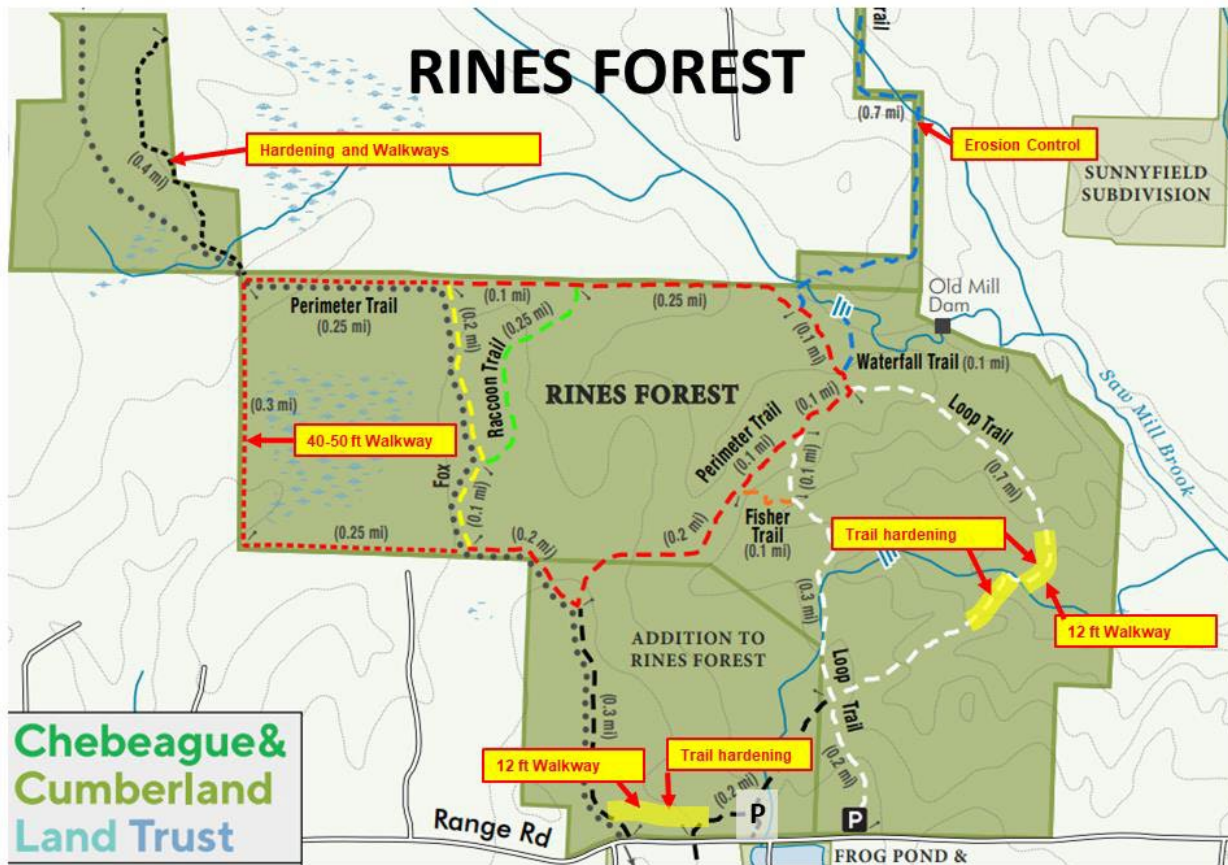
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- Rines Forest – Due to the efforts needed to complete the work at Knight’s Pond, much of the work shown for Rines Forest will likely occur in FY 2023. Trail conditions may limit some of this work. In particular, the hardening and walkways shown in the “Godsoe” portion of Rines Forest is dependent on trail improvements to be completed by Public Works. For the other work projects, the trails will be routinely monitored and work will be prioritized based on trail conditions and needs.



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Forestry Subcommittee Transition Work Plan

- Change in leadership, Gordon is now subcommittee chair.
- Manage the Twin Brook harvest
 - Work with Town Forester to ensure proper harvest practices are employed and align with the recently signed contract
- Apply for Project Canopy grant to write a new management plan for Twin Brook
 - Grant application in progress and due March 11
- Make slight changes/updates to draft management plans for Knight's Pond and Rines II
- Assess invasive management program at Town Forest for best practices to use at other sites
- Apply for funding to develop invasive plant management plan for Town Forest, Rines Forest and for Twin Brook
- Develop strategy for controlling erosion on woods road/snowmobile trail at end of Greely Road Extension



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- Work with Town Manager to confirm strategy and timing of necessary remediation
- Explore possible educational opportunities

Forestry Subcommittee Draft Work Plan FY 2023

- Complete new management plan for Twin Brook that is consistent with the Guiding Principles
 - Remediate erosion area at the end of Greely Road Extension to allow sustainable access to the property for future harvests
 - Continue treatment of invasive plants at Rines Forest, Town Forest and Twin Brook with additional emphasis on tracking effectiveness of treatment on different species
 - Initiate Best Practice for Grassland Ecosystems project to influence management of Town-owned grasslands and recommendation for local grassland owners and farmers
-

Climate Action Subcommittee (Sustainability Subcommittee) Transitional Work Plan

- Issuance of Phase II report.

Sustainability Subcommittee Draft Work Plan FY 2023

- Monitor and support implementation of CAP 1 action items
 - Develop a MSAD51 solar farm
 - Install industrial scale heat pumps to supplement natural gas heating and mitigate the GHG effects of natural gas heating
 - Phase in EV or plug-in hybrid automobiles, light duty vehicles and school buses
 - Set aside a 225-acre forest carbon reserve from Town-owned woodlands
 - Design and build new public buildings to a zero-carbon standard
 - Make available 5-10 acres of Town-owned land to market gardeners
 - Develop a tree planting program for public ways and easements
 - Engage MSAD 51 staff to integrate sustainability principles and the CAP into K-12 curricula
 - Delegate to the Town staff the duty to annually analyze and report the GHG emissions
- Under the auspices of and funding by GPCOG, develop a formal resiliency plan for Broad Cove and other sites as applicable to counteract the effects of climate change such as rising sea level. Consider and recommend if appropriate a Town Ordinance on fertilizer use.



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- Develop a communications, education and incentive plan to encourage adoption of Sustainable Landscaping by homeowners.
 - Support and communicate state and local area programs (Efficiency Maine, etc.) that promote adoptions of heat pumps, EV/PHEVs and solar arrays.
 - Support Town Manager and Public Works in addition of food waste capability at brush dump.
 - Engage the Planning Board, CCLT, Farmland Trust, GPCOG and others to expand conservation of Open Space.
 - Develop a conceptual framework for a pilot program on sale of forest carbon offsets to Town residents with a target date for rollout in FY 2024.
-

Commission

- During CY 2021, the Commission saw the planting along I 295 when DOT replaced many trees that had been eliminated with the construction of the turnout in the North-bound lane, just North of Tuttle Road.
- Roughly five acres of Town Forest invasive plants were cut and sprayed along with previously cut areas.
- Began updating the LCC portion of the Town's website.
- Using a Trimble GPS receiver, the Town owned trails and sidewalks were mapped and uploaded into an ESRI database. An app was distributed to LCC members to review this GIS work as the next step in updating the Town's trail network.

Commission Transition Work Plan

- Finish up the remaining items on the Town Forest to do list:
 - The Town to install two culverts in the Town Forest: one next to and one behind the salt shed
 - The Town to install two posts to put trail markers in the Town Forest: one in the field close to the vernal pool and the other where you come out of the woods behind the salt shed
 - The Town to move and position the kiosk by the Drown Rd entrance up the hill by the solar farm fence, so the map will be visible when walking towards the forest entrance
 - Reroute and harden the trail in the Town Forest from the Blue Trail to come out behind the salt shed (John and Ellen)
 - The new maps and updated verbiage for the kiosks at the Town Forest (waiting on Judy for data so we can add any needed info such as the key, compass rose, "you are here")
 - Get the Nature Trail and Story Walk links online (waiting on Judy)



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- Finish marking up the Nature Trail (Mike and Ellen - put new markers up and take pictures of spring plants).
- GIS - work with Whitney to get the GIS and trail/sidewalk info online (we still need to have a meeting about this - John, Mike Bill, Ellen);
- Twin Brook - discuss maps and new trail markers (need to schedule meeting - John, Mike, Bill, Ellen)
- Other items on hold:
 - Tree City
 - Arbor Day celebration
 - Farmland
 - Comprehensive approach to attacking invasive species
 - Conservation Subdivision ordinance amendment

Commission Draft Work Plan FY 2023

- Dependent on approved budget and needs of subcommittees.

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- John mentioned closing off some of the trail at the top of Greely Rd Ext. by Knights Pond to help alleviate erosion. There are multiple trails covering the same area. John and Gordon will coordinate.
 - New School – Denny pointed out that there was no mention of a solar farm on school property. Denny and Mark to draft letter to school board asking them to pick up the pace on solar farm. Cost – electricity and environmental impact. Solar farm needs 10 acres.
 - Communication (Matt)
 - Housekeeping work continues. Updating language and contacts, and reorganizing document center, etc.
 - Will put Andrew's kiosk presentation on Crier
 - Will put photos and info on web about trees planted along Rt. 1 N and the new Rines parking lot.
 - Mike went through work plan (see above)
 - **Recreational Trails Subcommittee - (John)**
 - Went over work plan (see above)
 - Senior project – Olivia Stewart would like to do volunteer trail work as a senior project. John put her in contact Ellen suggesting that the small trail in the Town Forest that needs hardening



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would be a nice contained project. Ellen, John and Olivia will meet early spring to mark out where trail should go and where trail needs to be hardened. Also need for the culvert behind the salt shed in place so that gravel can be wheeled onto the trail.

- Trail mapping – we will only show trails for which we have permission on the interactive online map. A measuring tool has been added to the software to calculate trail and trail segment distances. John continues to work to get permission to show more trails.
- CCLT is currently fundraising to obtain easements for two active projects: The Farm at Longwoods Reserve and the Read Family Farm. If fundraising efforts are successful, these properties will be added to the Town's trail network. The Read Family Farm trails may provide connections to Rines Forest and the Sunnyfield open space.
- Snow Dog grooming at Knight's Pond – so far not a very snowy winter for testing. Got some positive feedback from trail users. Maybe continue testing next year.
- **Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Gordon)**
 - Denny resigned as a member of the Forest Subcommittee
 - Went over work plan (see above)
 - Pete suggested harvest at Knight's Pond use low impact methods such as horses.
- **Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)**
 - Subcommittee had no meeting last month
 - Went through work plan (see above)
- **Invasive plants (Mike)**
 - Mike mentioned that invasive plants are rapidly spreading in ditches around town. Need to start the process of identifying what they are, and what is the best approach to control. Last year the State did a training program on iMapInvasive, an app that allows recording of location and other pertinent information. Mike will contact the State to see if more training is possible. Need to gauge citizens' interest. Possibly put request in Crier looking for people to support this effort. Invasive species falls under the Forest Subcommittee purview. Look into getting a grant to do inventory in forests. A lot of people have expressed opposition to spraying in the forest. See Mike's memo below regarding alternative plans for controlling invasive plants:

Invasives going forward
2/22/23 DRAFT #2

Current status. Cumberland, like much of Southern Maine, is temperate, lush and an ideal environment for a wide diversity of plants and the ecosystem that supports them. Over time, our corner of the world has been warming, as has much of the globe. Along with this, plants and insects from all over the world have been introduced into Maine. Some were brought by design, many by accident, but have quickly adapted to our hospitable environment, flourishing to the detriment of the



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native species. These invading plants and insects have been able to out-compete the native species for space and resources because there are few natural predators in this new environment to keep them in check.

Many residents fought individual battles with the invading hordes and, while that may have worked on the owner's property, the invaders could flourish on the neighbors' lands and return to the cleared areas.

We have not joined in a consistent, persistent battle with the invaders; consequently, while we may score some victories, given enough time, our countryside will be dominated by the invaders and our beautiful countryside will be devastated.

To date, we have a list of invasive plants, well documented in the "Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide" from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. This list includes: herbs and grasses (20), shrubs (12), trees (6), and vines (8). This list is likely to be soon expanded.

Apparently there is no equivalent comprehensive list of invasive insects although information about individual species is available (Mike Parisio, state entomologist).

The Problem. Actually, there are a number of problems. Once we acknowledge the corrosive existence of the invaders, we need to know what they are, where they exist and how to control them. Also, we need to work on manageable sized efforts instead of taking on the entire problem at once. I propose we focus our control efforts more on the invasive plants.

For starters, we could recruit a small force of dedicated residents capable of identifying the invasive plants. Using a resource such as iMapInvasives, which the State uses, would enable us to track searched areas, record the identified species, and keep a history of treatment. Once we have a comprehensive grasp of the problem plants and their locations, we can better determine the control mechanisms, whether biologic, mechanical, animal or chemical, to maximize treatment effectiveness.

So far, a major portion of the Town's efforts has been hiring a commercial sprayer to spray road ditches and portions of the Town Forest for a couple of days each fall. We can see some positive result from those efforts but, for some plants, the timing of the application makes it difficult to get positive results. The high cost of using a commercial sprayer means only a small portion of the known invasive plants are actually treated each year. There has also been repeated volunteer cutting of some buckthorn on Town property with limited success.

The proposal. As part of the FY 2023 work plan, the Commission take the initial steps for invasive management by determining if there is sufficient interest on the Commission and in the community to create a subcommittee dedicated to invasive management. Its responsibilities would include inventorying invasive plants on Town property, systematically recording the locations using software such as iMapInvasives, research control mechanisms as well as serve as a resource to citizens interested in controlling invasive plants on their own property.



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- **Farmland assessment** (Dave) – No update
- **New Business**
 - Pete – standards for walkways. Trails are muddy. Idea of using planking temporarily until can fix walkway according to standards. Also curbing on walkways should not be allowed. Mike suggested Pete work with the Trails Subcommittee and come back with recommendations.
 - Foreside Garden Club (Mike) – donated plants for an orchard. Where should they be planted? Will be delivered around April time frame.
- Next meeting April 6th - 7:00 PM. Zoom or in person –TBD.