

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: March 2, 2023

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

Chris Bolduc; Bill Longley ++ (abs); Mark Segrist+; Tig Filson+

To: Members:

David Cowan	Pete Wilson	<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott	<sup>(T)</sup> Shaun Breton
Denny Gallaudet	David Young	<sup>(F)</sup> John Leavitt	<sup>(T)</sup> Paige Diamant
Ellen Hoffman		<sup>(F)</sup> *Gordon Lichter ✓	<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald
John Jensenius <sup>vice*</sup>		<sup>(F)</sup> Todd Ontl	<sup>(T)</sup> David Grimm
Riva Krut (abs)		<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam	<sup>(T)</sup> *John Jensenius ✓
*Mike Schwindt		<sup>(F)</sup> Sally Stockwell	<sup>(T)</sup> Walker Newell
Joshua Steirman			<sup>(T)</sup> Adam Orellana
George Turner			<sup>(T)</sup> Brian Stearns
			<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell

Sustainability Subcommittee

Sukie Curtis, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent ✓, Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Meddy Smith, Dave Witherill

Invasives Subcommittee:

Ellen Hoffman, John Jensenius, Mike Schwindt

Farmland Subcommittee:

John Jensenius, Mike Schwindt, Bill Shane, Bob Vail, David Young

**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 1, 2023

- February minutes were approved as written (after correcting a few typos).
- Penny Asherman (CCLT) was also in attendance.
  
- Town Council report
  - Mark - Town Hall being closed due to inclement weather has caused scheduling changes. Budget workshops have shifted to: March 27, April 10, April 24 all at 5:00 PM before Council meeting. Last meeting April 29 8:00 AM until completed.
  - Tig
    - Meeting April 12 with Town Council and school board to discuss next steps in planning for new school – preliminary and open to the public.
    - Town Council plans to do a walk-through Twin Brook in the spring looking at the invasive plant situation.
    - Affordable housing TIF district discussion tabled.
  - Chris
    - No grinding of the invasive plants in Town Forest due to weather.
    - Third Val Halla employee has been certified for chemical spraying. Gordon mentioned the invasive plant management plans for town’s forests call for spraying and wonders if there is an hourly rate associated with that action.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- There was a walk through in the fall by SME (Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.) looking at updating the Wilderness trail in Twin Brook.
- Bill Report (from Bill's email)
  - During the month of February 2023, Bill's office issued 21 permits for new buildings such as for pools, sheds, decks, houses, condos, barns, additions, renovations, commercial and solar installations.
  - Oceanview phase 1 (Tuttle Rd) -completed or under construction 52-permits have been issued to date. All lots are reserved in phase 1.
  - Oceanview phase 2- culverts are in place prior to 10-01-2022
  - Christmas Creek – Vining Way – 19 of 20 are completed
  - Orchard Road – Cortland Court – 7 of 10 building permits issued as of this date
  - Blanchard Oaks – Peaceful Way- 10 of 13 occupied
  - Snowy Owl off Old Gray Road –10 Units approved
  - The Mark off Route One– 45 units approved; site work started with blasting
  - Ross Estates off Blanchard Road Ext.-3 Units approved
  - Yarmouth Vet at Heritage Village
  - The Grange at Longwoods-Building permit issued; work has started
  - White Rock off Skyview Drive – 55 units of senior housing awaiting MSHA
  - Lot split of existing subdivision by amendment at 104 Foreside Road
  - Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 21, 2023 has been cancelled since no applications are pending as of the deadline: 2 PM March 1.
  - Future Planning Board items
    - Major Site Plan amendment for LGC Clinical (Maine Std's) ground mounted solar just north of existing building at Route One near Powell Road. **Note:** this has subsequently been moved to March.
    - Rusty Lantern- Food Mart and new bank at Gray Road
    - Dave Chase Pit possible commercial / residential off Blackstrap Road
    - Harris Road split of three lot subdivision in planning stage
    - Town antenna and carrier cell towers off Range Road and Blackstrap Road.
  - Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (2022)
    - Heat pumps issued calendar YTD = 206
    - Solar issued calendar YTD = 055
    - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 009
  - Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (2023)
    - Heat pumps issued calendar YTD = 028
    - Solar issued calendar YTD = 009
    - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 005



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

○ Commission (Mike)

- Work plans status of FY 23 and draft 24 proposed work plans (see below). No comments on plans. Dave C questioned how pay for trail work? John – all work is volunteer and materials are provided by Town from LCC budget and some from Chris’ budget (Public Works). The plans will be held in abeyance until final budget from Town.

## 2022-23 Fiscal Year Work Plan Update on Progress 2/23/23 Commission

During the 2023 Fiscal year the LCC will:

- Support the Subcommittees in meeting their approved workplans for the year. *Status - Ongoing.*
- Develop operating instructions for use by the Commission and its subcommittees. *Status - Done*
- Determine whether to apply for “Tree City” status. *Status – We will apply.*
- Complete signage and trail Mapping of major Town properties *Status - Done*
- Develop a strategy for addressing invasives on Town properties. *Status – Work in Progress*
- Maintain butterfly garden, peony garden and pollinator garden at Val Halla. *Status - Ongoing*

### Cumberland Sustainability Subcommittee

Phase II Recommended Actions		MT CO2e Avoided
1	Reduce GHG emissions from home energy use – promote heat pump use	24,000
2	Reduce GHG from transport	18,000
3	Adopt ecologically productive, low carbon/ low water landscaping practices	10,000
4	Support 30X30 goal of conserving 30% Cumberland’s lands by 2030	4,000
5	Purchase low-cost carbon offsets from Town owned forest lands	3,000
6	Install low-cost solar panels	1,600
7	Decrease food waste through composting	1,000
8	Adopt the 2021 IECC “stretch” energy efficiency goal for new construction	800
9	Buy more locally grown food.	Not yet calculated
10	Ensure the integrity of water quality in Broad Cove.	Not yet calculated

1. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent) Provide informational material on heat pump installation at least once on Cumberland Crier. Host one virtual information session at Town Office.  
*In addition to above, many outreach programs from Efficiency Maine and others. New heat pump installed for Town Office in retrofit of Council Chambers. Over 200 heat pumps installed in Cumberland homes in 2002, per Code Enforcement Officer*
2. (Riva Krut) Monitor/disseminate information from Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and Future (GOPIF). Interact with local dealers such as Lee Auto  
*Large increase in demand for EVs with most models on long waiting lists. Maine DEP annual report will document uptake in Cumberland.*
3. (Sukie Curtis) Provide informational material on Crier. Develop and propose by Spring 2023 trial incentive program for residents to adopt sustainable landscaping – e.g., mini grants of landscaper consults  
*Sukie sent letter to editor of PPH; copy posted to SSC webpage. Obtained \$13,000 CRP grant for community education programs and demonstration food forest. Decided against cash incentive program for residents based on cost/benefit and equity issues.*



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4. (Denny Gallaudet). Assist in modifications to Conservation Subdivision Ordinance. Collaborate with CCLT on Read Family Easement and any new proposals.  
*Ordinance updated to include Prime agricultural lands of at least five contiguous acres as high value conservation area. Map of prime agricultural lands completed. Read property transaction finalized by CCLT*
5. (Denny Gallaudet). Defer to 2023-24 work plan
6. (Denny Gallaudet). No action needed
7. (Riva Krut). Work with PW to develop food waste compost system at site of brush dump. Assist in grant application to MDEP  
*MDEP training held at Town Office on food waste diversion. Brush dump area approved for additional food waste. Pilot project begun with Garbage to Garden but put on hold due contamination with plastics. Deferred grant application to MDEP because of staff shortage at Public Works. Will pick up the pace in Spring of 2023*
8. (Jenn Grasso). Monitor adoption of this goal by Code Enforcement  
*Code Enforcement Officer has put this on hold on his own authority without communicating same to SSC. Further discussion in process.*
9. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent) no action needed
10. (Ivy Frignoca). As Casco Bay Keeper, keep Town aware of any watershed initiatives that require Town involvement.  
*Applied for \$5,000 Casco Bay Estuary Grant for landowner education on pesticide and fertilizer best practices.*

### Carryover from Phase I

- i. **Develop a MSAD 51 solar farm.**
- ii. **Install industrial scale heat pumps to supplement natural gas heating and mitigate the GHG effects of natural gas heating.**
- iii. **Phase in EV or plug-in hybrid automobiles, light duty vehicles and school buses**
- iv. **Set aside a 225-acre forest carbon reserve from town-owned woodlands.**
- v. **Design and build new public buildings to a zero-carbon standard.**
- vi. **Make available 5-10 acre parcels of town-owned land to market gardeners.**
- vii. **Develop a tree planting program for public ways and easements.**
- viii. **Engage MSAD 51 staff to integrate sustainability principles and the CAP into K-12 curricula.**
- ix. **Delegate to the Town staff the duty to annually analyze and report the GHG emissions generated within Cumberland.**

1. (Denny Gallaudet). In process. DG on working group headed by Bill Shane
2. (Denny Gallaudet). will submit up to three \$50,000 GOPIF grants for this project  
*First grant of \$50,000 awarded and funds received.*
3. Completed. under advisement by Chris Bolduc  
*\$30,000 of above grant to be applied to purchase of a new EV mower as specified by CB*
4. (Denny Gallaudet). under advisement by Forestry Subcommittee  
*Forestry Committee has specified parcels for forest carbon reserve. Sent to TC for permanent record.*
5. (Jesse Lamarre Vincent, Jenn Grasso). monitor/join Building Committee for North Yarmouth elementary school project. TC support letter already sent to MSAD 51 Board.  
*Denny Gallaudet appointed to Building Committee. On hold due to failure of bond referendum.*
6. No town land available at present.  
*5 parcels of prime agricultural lands identified on town-owned land. Also, CCLT has closed on two new projects (Read, Grange) that will include working farmland.*



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7. (Sukie Curtis, Riva Krut) monitor with Public Works
8. Completed.
9. Completed. under advisement by Bill Shane

### **Forest and Natural Resources**

Current work plan status:

1. Twin Brook Management Plan (Status: Delayed)
  - o Expected completion was 2H 2022, but we became sidetracked working on a recommendation letter for future harvests. Current expected completion date for a new management plan is July 2023.
2. Erosion at Greely Rd Extension/Knight's Pond (Status: On Hold)
  - o John Leavitt has taken ownership of this project and will set up a meeting with the key parties once the snow melts in Spring 2023. Execution of a solution is dependent on Public Works and their own work plans.
3. Grassland Management (Status: In Progress)
  - o The Forestry Subcommittee has drafted a document and policy proposal for the Town Council based on work completed with Ag Allies. Goal is to have the document and policy sent to the Town Council for consideration in March 2023.
4. Invasives (Status: Never-ending)
  - o We held a handful of community-driven invasive days, mostly at Rines Forest. Those will continue in the future, supplemented in 2023 with help from Public Works, who will start spraying as directed by best practices.
5. Signage (Status: In Progress)
  - o Draft invasive sign for Town Forest drafted - goal is to have a sign ready to place in Spring 2023.

### **Recreational Trails**

During the remainder of FY2023, the Recreational Trails Subcommittee will continue its efforts to build and maintain sustainable trails on Town-owned properties. We also continue to explore opportunities to obtain trail easements in the Greely Woods and Crystal Lane subdivisions. Weather, ground conditions, and possibly insect infestations may affect the order in which these projects will be done.

For Knight's Pond, the trail along the northwest side of Knight's Pond was relocated last summer, and bridges and walkways were built and the trail was hardened, where needed. Some additional hardening will be necessary this spring. We also expect to build a 140 ft. walkway over the wet area on the blue trail near the ridgeline this spring.

For Greely Woods, trail hardening will continue during the remainder of FY2023. Deteriorating trail conditions due to the wet fall, warm winter, and spring conditions will determine the work to be done. Available resources (manpower and gravel) will affect how quickly the work can be accomplished.

For Rines Forest some trail hardening will be needed this spring and early summer, but the primary effort will be to improve trail conditions in the "Godsoe" portion of Rines Forest with bridges and walkways.



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## DRAFT FY 2024 Work Plans

### LCC Work Plan

- Support the Subcommittees in accomplishing their workplans for the year.
- Continue developing the protocols for a community orchard and food independence including community gardens.
- Apply for “Tree City” status.
- Continue developing strategies for addressing invasives on Town properties, complementing the Forestry efforts.
- Maintain butterfly garden, peony garden and pollinator garden at Val Halla.
- Look for alternative funding sources at the federal and state levels.

For reference, we did request \$17,900 for the budget to cover the Commission's activities:

- 5,000 for Invasives
- 10,000 for contracted services with GPCOG
- 250 for recent sightings display at the Town Forest
- 2,000 for Food Independence
- 650 for signage

### Forestry Subcommittee Work Plan

- Twin Brook Harvest
  - Work with Town Forester to ensure proper harvest practices are employed and align with any agreement reached with the Town Council and Jeff Storey
- Management Plan(s)
  - Complete new management plan for Twin Brook that is consistent with the Guiding Principles (July 2023)
  - Apply for Project Canopy grant to subsidize new management plan for Twin Brook
    - Grant application in progress and due March
- Invasives
  - Complete invasives management plans for Town Forest, Rines Forest and for Twin Brook
  - Apply for grant funding to execute invasives management plans for Town Forest, Rines Forest and for Twin Brook
  - Continue treatment of invasives at Rines Forest, Town Forest and Twin Brook (Year-round)
    - Partner with Town to use their certified employees to spray
    - Organize resident “invasive days”
    - Hire outside help as needed/budgeted per grant(s) received



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- Grasslands
  - Initiate grassland ecosystems management (Q2 2023)
  - Work with Sustainability subcommittee to coordinate potential agricultural use
- Signage
  - Create temporary and permanent educational signage for upcoming projects (Year-round)
    - Erosion control
    - Invasives management
    - Forest wildlife education
    - Any harvest work
- Admin
  - Rewrite Forestry Subcommittee Website section and add links to completed, approved management plans
  - Get historical Forestry data archived with the library
- Education
- Miscellaneous
  - Develop strategy for controlling erosion on woods road/snowmobile trail at end of Greely Road Extension
    - Work with Town Manager to confirm strategy and timing of necessary remediation
  - Explore other possible educational opportunities

### **Trails Subcommittee Work Plan**

The Recreational Trails Subcommittee will continue to monitor trail conditions on the Town-owned trails during FY24 and address any problems as they arise. In addition to normal maintenance issues, the Trails Subcommittee plans the following for FY24.

- Rines Forest  
The Red Trail in the Godsoe portion of Rines Forest crosses a rather wet area. We expect that over 300 feet of walkways will be needed to make the trail sustainable. In FY24, we expect to continue the efforts begun in the last quarter of FY23 to improve this section of trail.
- Knight's Pond  
We are planning to complete a 140 walkway along the Blue Trail and hardening of the White Trail during the last quarter of FY23. At this time, we have no other plans for Knight's Pond for FY24. However, we will assist North Yarmouth on any improvements to The North Yarmouth side of the preserve.
- Greely Woods  
During FY24, we expect to construct 2 walkways totally about 50 feet over wet spots on the Red Trail. In addition, we will continue to harden sections of the Blue, Green, Orange and Red trails.
- Homestead Lane  
During FY24, we will be evaluating the possibility of establishing a walking trail through the property. Currently, the property is rather overgrown with invasives and has several small streams and wet areas. Any future trails around the property would likely require us to build walkways and bridges.



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- Moss Cemetery  
The back side of Moss Cemetery has a trail used by children to get to school as well as residents in that area. Sections of the trail become muddy during the wet season. We plan to harden these sections during the last quarter of FY23 or the first quarter of FY24.
- Twin Brook  
The signs currently at the trail entrances at Twin Brook are very confusing due to their orientation. We plan to create new signage for these entrances.
- Sunnyfield Lane and Blanchard Road Ext. properties  
During FY24, we plan to look at trail possibilities in these properties. For the Sunnyfield Lane property, preliminary plans are to connect to trails on the Read property (CCLT easement) which would in turn connect to the Blue Trail in Rines Forest. For the Blanchard Road Ext. area, the goal would be to establish trails that would connect Town-owned properties, easements and open space to create a trail system in that area.
- Possible easements  
During FY 24, we will continue to pursue trail easements across private properties to enhance the trail connectivity in the town.

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- Archiving (Mike) – Need to archive Commission and subcommittee documents as well as all the forest and invasive management plans from Paul. Thomas at library will scan documents in. Need to come up with a matrix how to organize and link the archival site to the Town’s website. Mike and Ellen have started organizing the binders containing 20 years’ worth of minutes and assorted accompanying documents.
  - Grassland Management (Gordon)
    - Memo from Forestry Subcommittee submitted with policy for grassland bird management (see below).
    - Sally to contact Ag Allies about how/whether the proposed orchard near the brush dump on Stiles Way could affect the Bobolinks we want to protect.
    - The proposed policy is basically not to mow in the designated areas until July 15<sup>th</sup> to preserve habitat. Ideal nesting time between May 1 and July 15. Put up signage during that time to inform the public.
    - Chris thought it a good idea to put policy in writing so future managers and employees will know.
    - Denny mentioned that the protein content of the grass drops after June 10; this ties in with the Town’s food independency goal.



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- Ellen questioned if the area under/ around the solar farm could be used for nesting birds.
  - Biggest problem in Twin Brook nesting site are dogs off leash.
  - Gordon made motion that the LCC accept the document (memo) and proposed policy and send to Town Council for their review and acceptance. Pete second;  
Discussion:
    - Dave C said should modify so that July 15 is not a hard date
    - Penny said there should be some latitude due to climate change
    - George said add statement regarding dogs with leash and nesting birds
    - All suggestions should be sent to Mike so he could modify language.
    - Motion carries unanimous
- 

### MEMO

To: Cumberland Lands and Conservation Commission  
From: Forestry Subcommittee  
Re: Grassland Nesting Bird Conservation  
Date: xx February 2023

#### Background

Last June the Conservation Commission worked with Ag Allies – a statewide organization focused on working with landowners on grassland bird conservation - to assess the Town's fields for the presence of grassland nesting birds (including Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks) and to make recommendations on management that can help conserve and/or enhance the nesting success of those birds.

Grassland birds are in severe trouble across the nation, including Maine, having declined 53% across North America since 1970 - more than any other group of birds. This decline is in large part due to loss of nesting habitats; here in Maine in particular following the transition of the heyday of agricultural lands years 70-80 years ago to today's shrubland and forestland. As a result, grassland birds have been listed as a high priority for conservation by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's State Wildlife Action Plan, and both the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark are considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Grassland birds can nest successfully in fields that are a mixture of grasses and forbs left undisturbed between mid-May and mid-July. Timothy-clover fields are ideal for nesting, especially if limed and fertilized as needed. Circular or rectangular fields 8-15 acres with extensive nesting areas in the center are preferred nesting sites.

#### Town of Cumberland Grasslands



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

Currently, there are relatively few highly productive grassland bird nesting sites across the state. After an examination of Cumberland's fields at Twin Brook and adjacent to the Town Forest/Maintenance Shed with grassland birds biologist Maeve McGowan from Ag Allies, much to our delight we discovered both sites are actively supporting nesting grassland birds! Ms. McGowan remarked that these appear to be surprisingly productive sites, with more active nesting pairs here than at most of the other sites she is working with in other communities.

This means as a Town, we have a rare opportunity to ensure we continue to provide high quality nesting habitat for several species of severely declining grassland birds. With appropriate management, both sites should be able to continue to do so or even increase nesting activity and/or nesting success.

Following are specific findings and recommendations from Ag Allies regarding Cumberland's fields:

### Town Forest Fields

- During the 2022 breeding season, there were at least 4 male Bobolinks, 2 of which were part of confirmed breeding pairs.
- Given the size of the field, it likely could support 3-4 breeding pairs.
- **Recommendation: Delaying all haying until after at least the second full week in July should give the birds their best chance of successfully raising at least one clutch of nestlings.**

### Twin Brook Fields – Tuttle Road side

- During the 2022 breeding season, there were at least 4 breeding pairs of Bobolinks, and 2 pairs of Savannah sparrows.
- The property may well support more pairs that we did not count during our visit.
- The birds were highly concentrated in fields to the northeast when we first entered the preserve.
- **Recommendation: For the best nesting success, wait to mow until at least after the second full week of July.**

### Twin Brook Fields – Greely Road side

- The small field out by the baseball field (and close to the neighboring farmer) appears that it *could* support birds if left unmowed.
- The Forestry Subcommittee will visit the site again around the same timeframe as last year to further observe and identify if any nesting birds are present
- **Recommendation: During 2023, delay any harvest there until at least after the second full week of July.**

## 2022 Nesting Season



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

Based on our initial findings last season, the Town Public Works department helpfully agreed to refrain from mowing at both sites until after the birds had completed nesting, or approximately mid-July (which they said is typically when they mow for the first time anyway).

In addition, Ag Allies agreed to return to the fields in early July to evaluate whether the birds had completed nesting yet in order to let the town know as soon as possible that it was “all clear” to mow. Maeve visited the fields on July 16 and immediately sent an email saying “you are all cleared to have them hayed!”

### **2023 Nesting Season**

We recommend following the same protocol during 2023 and beyond as we did in 2022 for the fields adjacent to the Town Forest, and all fields at Twin Brook, including the one near Greely Road if possible.

We also recommend placing Ag Allies signs at all three sites to help inform the public about the importance of these grassland nesting sites, and to make Grassland Birds informational sheets and identification pamphlets available at the Town Hall for anyone interested.

Here is an example of the sign:



And here is a snapshot of the pamphlet:



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

## Maine's Grassland Birds



### BOBOLINKS

The males' song is reminiscent of R2D2 of Star Wars! Perched on a blade of grass or branch, breeding males are striking, described as wearing a tuxedo backwards. Look for the straw-colored patch on the head. Females are buff and brown, with a pointed, pinkish bill and dark eyeline. *pc L Suomi-Lecker*



### SAVANNAH SPARROWS

Note the short tail, small head, and the telltale yellow stripe over the eye. Streaks on the breast may converge to form a spot. Listen for a thin, high-pitched "tsss" call. *pc L Suomi-Lecker, J Brockway*



### EASTERN MEADOWLARKS

Documented in only a few Ag Allies fields so far, meadowlarks have suffered stunning declines across their range. Note brilliant yellow underparts and black V on the breast. Males have a flute-like song. *pc K Greene, M Taylor*

### AMERICAN BITTERN



Unlikely to be seen, this stealthy marsh bird sometimes nests in upland grasslands. If spotted, bitterns often stand still and look straight up at the sky, sometimes swaying like grass. *pc L Suomi-Lecker*

### NORTHERN HARRIER



This slim, long-tailed hawk glides low over the grass, sporting a white patch at the base of its tail. Up close it has an owlish face. The gray and white males are smaller than the brown females. Like bitterns, harriers nest in both grasslands and marshes. *pc L Suomi-Lecker, M. Taylor*

*ID notes adapted from The Cornell Lab, allaboutbirds.org*

Here are some links to additional fact sheets of interest:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b4e0a6912b13ffa1db85e3f/t/6229dfc8a67056eb95c3b94/1646919165162/AAHabitat+Conservation+MowingUpdate21.pdf>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b4e0a6912b13ffa1db85e3f/t/6229fd492451f0640b2da354/1646918986348/AAFactSheet-Landowners.pdf>



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

Here is our recommendation for a new policy the town could adopt for supporting grassland bird nesting success in Cumberland:

WHEREAS grassland birds as a group are in severe trouble across the nation, including here in Maine, having declined 53% across North America since 1970 - more than any other group of birds.

WHEREAS the decline is in large part due to loss of good quality nesting habitat.

WHEREAS the Town of Cumberland owns two sites where grassland birds are currently nesting, including multiple pairs of Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows.

WHEREAS the State of Maine has identified several grassland birds as Species of Greatest Conservation Need and grassland bird nesting areas as a high priority for conservation in the Maine Wildlife Action Plan.

WHEREAS the Town of Cumberland grassland bird nesting sites support more nesting pairs than most other known grassland bird nesting sites across the southern and central portions of the state.

WHEREAS grassland birds require high quality grasslands that are undisturbed between early-May to mid-July for successful nesting and raising of young.

WHEREAS the Town of Cumberland has a unique opportunity to protect nesting habitat for these rapidly declining grassland bird species.

THEREFORE the Town of Cumberland commits to delaying all mowing of all fields adjacent to Stiles Way and all fields at Twin Brook Recreation Area until after the grassland birds have been documented to have completed nesting (approximately July 15). In addition, the Town commits to posting signs during the nesting season (approximately May 1 - July 15) identifying these areas as Grassland Bird Nesting Habitat and requesting that all dogs be either leashed or kept away from these areas during that time period.

- 
- Workshop with Town Council (Mike) – March 13 6:00 workshop with Town Council to provide a recap on how we are doing with this year’s workplan and to provide insight of what FY 24 looks like, so we can keep our efforts and the Town’s expectations in sync.
  - LCC email – Waiting on IT to provide LCC with an email address for public to send information or queries to.
  - Textile Recycling (Mike) – Boxes to collect textiles. Will start with one box at Town Hall around end of April. Denny made motion for LCC approval, for the Town Council to contract with Apparel Impact to provide this service to Cumberland. (Note: this



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proposal has the support of the Sustainability Subcommittee and town management/ Bill Shane.) John second; unanimous; motion carries. See proposal below:

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### Request for LCC to Approve a Proposal for Textile recycling for the Town of Cumberland. Feb 22 2023

Following on a request from a resident that the town adopt a textile recycling program like Yarmouth and Falmouth, this is a motion for LCC approval, for the TC to contract with Apparel Impact to provide this service for Cumberland. The proposal has the support of town management/ Bill Shane and the Sustainability Subcommittee.

#### Apparel Impact Operations and Capacity

- Started in 2014 as a New England textile recycler and community support company. Within 5 years, Apparel Impact became the fastest growing textile recycler in the northeastern U.S.; growing from a small regional provider to a multi-state business with >750 partners and customers ranging from small businesses, non-profit organizations, government partners to Fortune 500 companies
- 930 bins operating in NE since 2014. Recovered 45MM MT, donated to 13,000+ people and families.
- 90 Municipalities in Maine already participate
- Recently appointed a BD person for Maine specifically
- Run twelve routes a week for pickup in Maine
- Strong community contribution program, see graphic below
- Recent media article about Apparel Impact, Maine: <http://biz.manchesterinklink.com/apparel-impact-recycling-millions-of-tons-of-textiles-one-bin-at-a-time/>

#### Proposal

- Launch a program in Cumberland in April 2023
- Place a bin from [Apparel Impact](#) at the Town Hall parking lot for residential textile recycling
- [Acceptable items](#) include clothing, shoes, sheets and towel
- Apparel Impact will empty the bin weekly.
- Announce the start of the program in the Crier, and then run a quarterly story (SCC to provide)
- Town to appoint a focal point for this program, to work with the SCC/ Riva
- Town and SCC to revisit results after 3 months to determine if we can accept more bins, and where they would be located

#### Business case

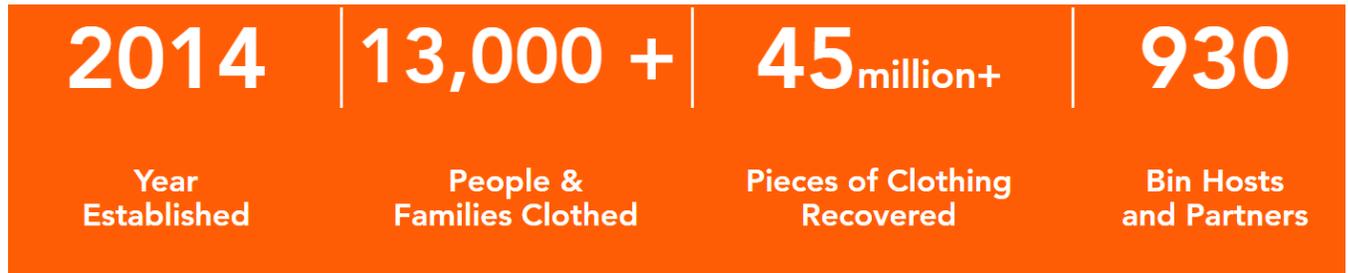
- Program is free to the Town
- Apparel Impact estimates textiles are ~10% municipal waste. (EPA 2018: 7.7%); 2/3 of this goes to landfill (see "Data" in chart below).
- Apparel Impact estimates Cumberland could recycle up to 300MT/ yr.
- This would save us several thousand dollars annually in avoided waste pickup costs. E.g. in Waterville Apparel Impact picked up 143MT in 2022 (2 locations); and avoided \$10k.

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### Apparel Impact



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



## Practical matters

- Family and Veteran Owned operated business based in NH. Contact points provided below.
- Annually provides a report of waste volume, by mid-Jan of year following
- Est. Cumberland might need up to 5 bins. Propose we start with one; assess participation after 3 months.
- Appropriate textiles are donated to needy local people and communities. Also sold to companies that upcycle them or repurpose them, e.g. for insulation.

## Concerns

- Program donates appropriate items to its community partners. If Cumberland's bin becomes a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing drop-off spot, it could overwhelm the bin. Also, it could divert existing clothing donation bins that provide local donations. These concerns were aired with the CEO of AI by Riva and by Bill Shane, and we are confident that this issue will not arise with this contact as AI has pickup trucks traveling regularly all over Maine.

## Contact

Joe Whitten

Apparel Impact Co-Founder and CEO

Office: 603-505-4779 Ext.700 Direct Line: 603-867-3340

Email: [joe@apparelimpact.com](mailto:joe@apparelimpact.com) Web: [www.apparelimpact.com](http://www.apparelimpact.com)

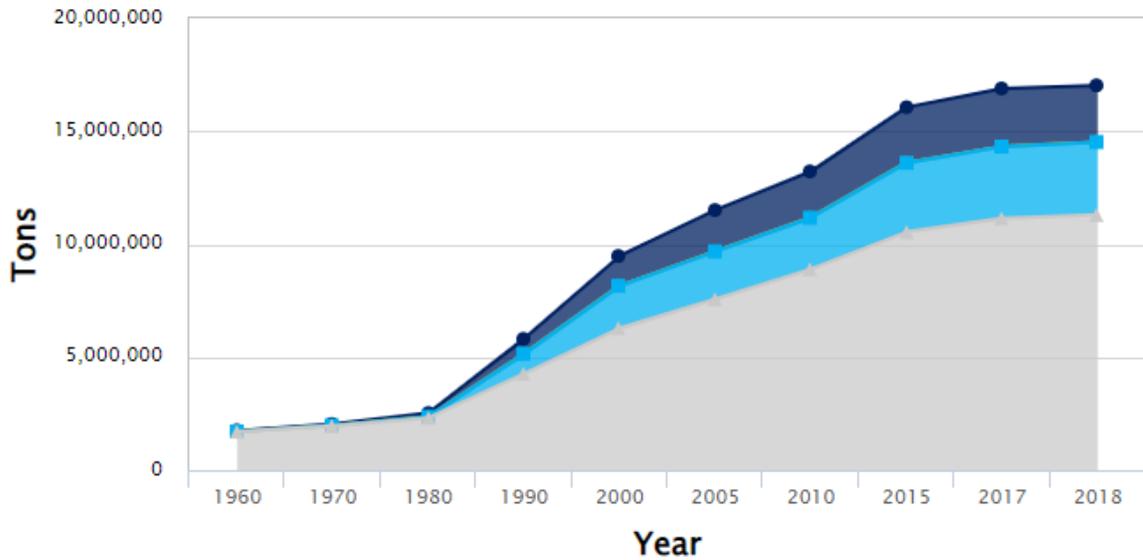
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/apparelimpact](http://www.facebook.com/apparelimpact)

## Data



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

### Textiles Waste Management: 1960–2018



*Click on legend items below to customize items displayed in the chart*

- Recycled
- Composted
- Combustion with Energy Recovery
- Landfilled

<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data>

- Food independence (Mike) – Jesse created documents regarding community orchard and an orchard/garden 10-year plan. Meets food independence goals, use grant funds. Storage site for tools can share tools and storage with the BFG tools stored in salt shed. In the future build separate storage facility. Question if there is competing interest with concern for nesting birds, and the community garden. Jesse mentioned Mt. Joy orchard in Portland’s East End. Harvest shared with residents. Money in grant for education. Jesse mentioned the Lawns Gone Wild seminars (see flyer below). Mike mentioned should create another subcommittee for the demo orchard project. Everyone agreed this was the direction with orchard we wanted to go in. Mike will contact the Town Council to begin the process for their authorizing the land to be used for a community garden. Copies of the documents: “A Community Demonstration Orchard for Cumberland ME” and the executive summary for the “Cumberland Community Orchard, Ten Year Plan Overview” can be obtained by contacting Mike.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



# Lawns Gone Wild

Educating for Sustainable Back Yards

Upcoming educational workshops by area experts.  
All workshops are free. No registration required.

**Gardening for Wildlife Habitat**  
**Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at Prince Memorial Library**  
Explore gardening and landscaping with an eye toward creating and maintaining habitat for local wildlife. **Speaker:** Aaron Parker, Edgewood Nurseries

**Low-Maintenance, Low-Input Gardening**  
**Saturday, April 22 at 10 a.m. at Prince Memorial Library**  
Learn the essentials and minimize the work. We'll discuss techniques to help tackle some problems associated with organic gardening. **Speaker:** Aaron Parker, Edgewood Nurseries

**Edible Oasis in Your Back Yard**  
**Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Prince Memorial Library**  
Any landscape can incorporate an abundance of edible plants. Learn the styles, techniques & plants to turn your surroundings into an edible oasis. **Speaker:** Aaron Parker, Edgewood Nurseries

**Saving the Bobolink & Other Grassland Birds**  
**Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. at Twin Brook Recreation Area** (At the Red Shelter, Tuttle Rd.)  
Maine's grassland birds are under threat. Learn how farmers & landowners can protect them.  
**Speakers:** Maeve McGowan, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust & Sally Stockwell, Maine Audubon

— Working in Partnership —



- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Grant (Mike) – Grant of \$4,950 was awarded to the Town of Cumberland Sustainability Subcommittee for “Low-impact Landscaping for the Health of Casco Bay”. Denny made motion that the LCC recommend to the Town Council to authorize it to accept the funds to be used to develop and design accessible, graphic, and educational print and web material. Gordon second; unanimous; motion passed.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



February 28, 2023

Meddy Smith, SSC Member  
Via email:  
Meddysmith16@gmail.com

Dear Meddy & Committee:

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) is pleased to inform you that we are awarding the Town of Cumberland Sustainability Subcommittee (SSC) \$4,950 for your "Low-Impact Landscaping for the Health of Casco Bay" project. The review committee really liked every aspect of your proposal and felt it hit all the community engagement targets.

A check will be forthcoming as soon as the Town of Cumberland completes the relevant paperwork for the University of Southern Maine. It is our understanding that you will use these funds prior to June 30, 2024. If circumstances change, please let us know so that we can agree on an alternate course of action. When the funds have been expended, please provide CBEP with a brief report summarizing the project outcomes and challenges, and including photographs, permissions, and documentation of media coverage. One condition of the grant is that you are to acknowledge Casco Bay Estuary Partnership in any press releases, printed documents, multimedia products, signs, or other materials where descriptions of the project may appear.

As a federally funded program, CBEP relies on our partners to help us find the necessary match and leverage for our U.S. EPA Clean Water Act funding. A requirement of the funding we are providing to SSC/Town of Cumberland is that you submit a Match and Leverage reporting letter showing how you have used our funds to generate a broad impact. In early August, we will send you a request for this information along with a format for responding.

Congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to the long-term health and vitality of Casco Bay.

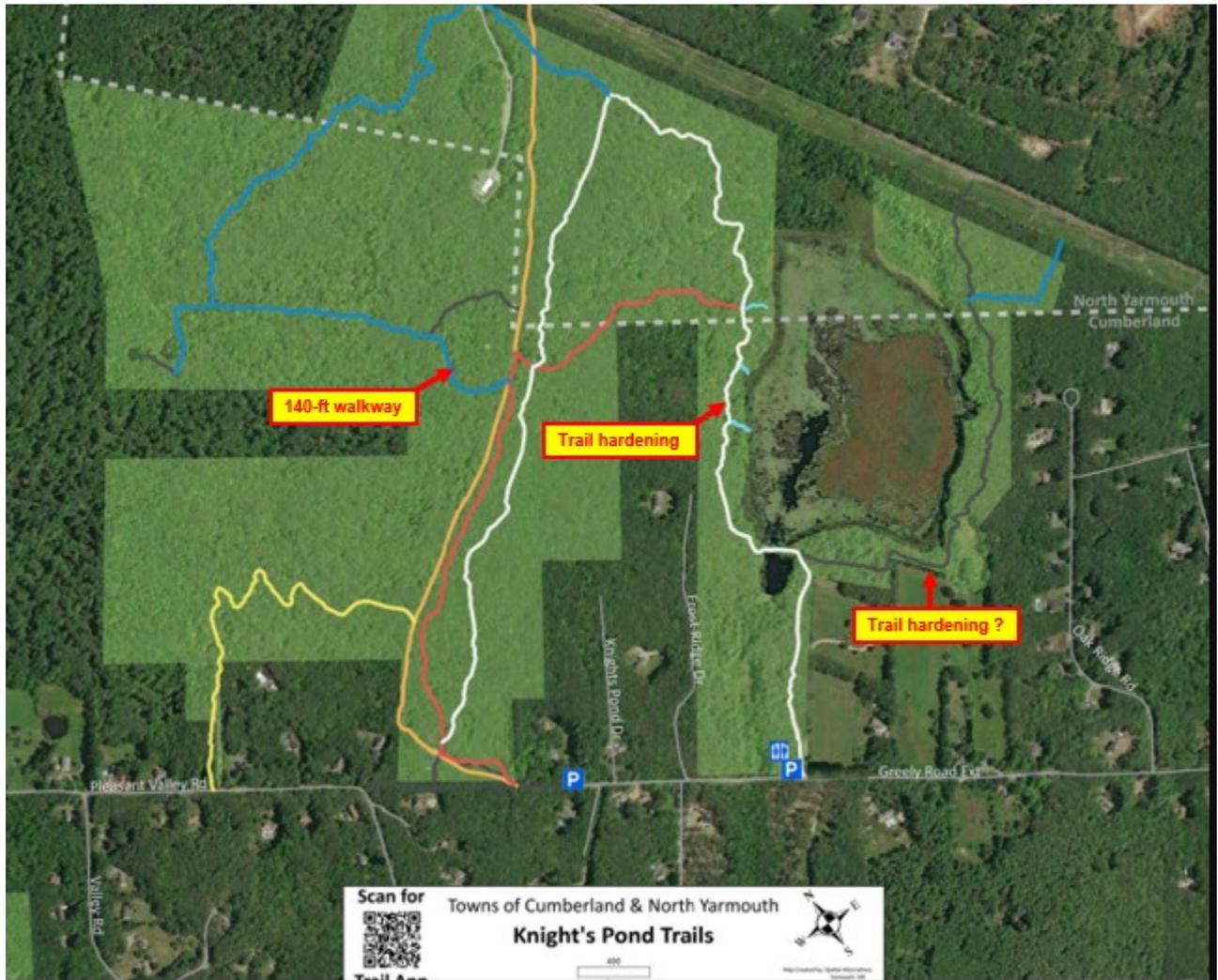
Sincerely,

Victoria Boundy  
Community Engagement Coordinator

- Trails Subcommittee (John)
  - Knight's Pond – 100ft walkway to be built along the Blue Trail. Problem getting materials in. Plan to use the snowmobile club to sled materials in soon. \$1,000 donation through CCLT. Town and North Yarmouth will split remaining cost.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- John mentioned the hunting and dog signs are in. Just a few more signs need to be put up. Kiosk look so much better.



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)



- New link put on Town website for Parks, Trails and Facilities map.



- Forestry Subcommittee (Gordon)
  - Twin Brook
    - Timber Cruise for management plan continues



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Paul to obtain a new landowner report and submit it with the harvest totals provided by Jeff Storey. Bill S will set a reminder in November regarding the landowner report being due end of year.
- Contract with Jeff Storey has been renewed for six months for a potential harvest in Area 1. Paul will mark trees with a different color paint. Still TBD whether the ground will ever get firm enough to complete harvest.
- Invasive management plans – Paul unable to begin working on the plans until after the plants start to leaf out (April-ish).
- No municipality received funding for grant requests submitted in 2022, as the program was overwhelmed with applications. Mentioned that money could be added to Project Canopy on top of (or potentially in place of) the regular program because of the level of interest (TBD).
- Hemlock woolly adelgid is likely to appear soon. Identified by the white woolly masses they form on the underside of branches at the base of the needles.



- Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)
  - There is a lot of federal money available from the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act and the Community Resilience Partnership but we need grant writers to find and apply for these grants. There is also money available for microgrid projects. Tig suggested using independent contractors to help in the research and grant writing efforts.
- Invasives Subcommittee (Mike)
  - Tentative training session May 6 for iMapInvasives at the library. Roughly 3-4 hours. Mike mentioned that a new list of invasive plants should be coming out soon.
- New Business/coming attractions (Mike)
  - Future for composting
  - Tree City designation
  - Trail Maps

Next meeting – April 5 7 PM.