



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: November 2, 2023

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

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

To: Members:

**Commission**

David Cowan, Denny Gallaudet, Ellen Hoffman, John Jensenius <sup>vice</sup>\*(abs), Riva Krut,

Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, \*Mike Schwindt, Joshua Steirman, George Turner, Pete Wilson, David Young

**Forest Subcommittee**

Melissa Cott, John Leavitt, \*Gordon Lichter ✓, Todd Ontl, Linda Putnam, Sally Stockwell

**Invasive Subcommittee**

\*David Cowan

**Orchard Subcommittee**

Adam Blackwell ✓, Michelle Gardiner, Betsey Harding, Will Harper, Jack Iveson, \*Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denise Thorrsen ✓

**Sustainability Subcommittee**

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

**Trails Subcommittee**

Shaun Breton, Paige Diamant, Stephen Fitzgerald, David Grimm, \*John Jensenius, Walker Newell, Adam Orellana, Brian Stearns, Don Stowell

**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 November 1, 2023

- October minutes were approved as written. Pete moved to accept; David seconded; unanimous.
- Town Council report (Mark)
  - Forest Subcommittee will host a walk in the Town Forest with Town Council. November 4, 7:30 AM; meet at kiosk. Look at invasive plants and ongoing mitigation with Paul L.
  - Town mowing schedule resolution – November 13 Town Council meeting. Workshop at 6:00 prior to meeting. Cumberland Grassland Birds Management Recommendations FINAL:

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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.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

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 non-athletic fields and pathways at Twin Brook Recreation Area until July 15 unless otherwise notified by the Lands and Conservation Commission. 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.

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- Affordable housing – RFPs due by November 2; interviews to follow.
  - Bill Report (Bill L)
    - During the month of October 2023, Bill’s office issued 36 permits for new buildings such as for pools, sheds, decks, houses, condos, barns, additions, renovations, commercial and solar installations.
    - Approved projects under construction:
      - Oceanview phase 2- 13/52 permits have been issued
      - Christmas Creek – Vining Way – 19 of 20 are completed
      - Orchard Road – Cortland Court – 8 of 10 building permits issued as of this date
      - Snowy Owl off Old Gray Road –10 units approved; still blasting
      - The Mark off Route One– 45 units approved; site work blasting complete
      - Ross Estates off Blanchard Road Ext.-3 Units approved; pre-con complete
      - Yarmouth Vet at Heritage Village – pre-con complete. Blasting permit issued; work has started blasting usually two to three times a day



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- White Rock off Skyview Drive – 55 units of senior housing awaiting MSHA
- Lot split of existing subdivision by amendment at 104 Foreside Road
- LGC Solar Field as approved in May with conditions; now under construction
  
- Planning Board meeting scheduled for December 19, 2023 at 7pm (no November meeting):
  - MSAD51 amendment for Site Plan adjustments for portable classrooms (as-built)
  
- Future Planning Board items:
  - Public Hearing for sketch plan for 72 units (36 will be “affordable”) in Chase Pit at 77 Blackstrap Road with public water from the Portland Water District extended from the West Cumberland Fire Station.
  - Rusty Lantern- Food Mart and new bank at Gray Road
  - Town antenna and carrier cell towers off Range Way and the Gray Rd.
  
  - The Town Council has voted to seek a “Request for Proposal” at the area of the Little League fields adjacent to the old Drowne Rd School for new housing proposed to be mixed use family and senior housing. If a proposal is submitted, the LCC will need to make a recommendation to the Town Council for use of Town property.
  
  - Relocation of the Little League fields to a new location such as off Stiles Way or another location. The relocation will also require a LCC recommendation to the Council. No other location has been designated yet.
  
- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (2022)
  - Heat pumps (homes) issued calendar YTD = 206
  - Solar issued calendar YTD = 055
  - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 009
  
- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (through Oct 31, 2023)
  - Heat pumps (homes) issued calendar YTD = 157
  - Solar issued calendar YTD = 052
  - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 013

See below



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ELECTRIC#	DATE ISSUED	OWNER	LOCATION	Text18	Text19	ESTIMATED C/FEE	
23-402	10-Oct-23	CHANDLER WILLIAM & CHRISTINA	61 WHITNEY ROAD	Charles Martz - Daves World	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-403	10-Oct-23	CLARK ELAINE	19 NAUTICAL DRIVE	Craig Beardsley-Riser Heat Pumps	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-406	10-Oct-23	DOW DANIEL & BARBARA	10 CRYSTAL LANE	Calvin Simpson-Dirfy Generators	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-414	18-Oct-23	MARCUS GEORGE & NANCY SAVAGE	1 OCEAN TERRACE	Craig Beardsley-Riser Heat Pumps	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-421	24-Oct-23	DEATRICK DEBORAH	8 BIRCH LANE	Dave Perry RRHP	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-426	30-Oct-23	HUNTER MARCIA & WOLINSKY PETER	7 TRUE SPRING DRIVE	David Perry-RRHP	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-427	30-Oct-23	SHEEHAN TANYA & HARKETT DANIEL	10 STONY RIDGE ROAD	David Perry-RRHP	1 Heat pump	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-404	10-Oct-23	SNYDER THOMAS & LINDSAY	10 BAYBERRY LANE	David Perry-RRHP	1 Heat pump/subpane	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-391	02-Oct-23	HUDDY LAURA & JASON	5 RIDGE DRIVE	Gary Osgood	1 heat pump-shed w/l	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-407	12-Oct-23	MARTELLE MATTHEW & ANDREA	10 FIDDLERS WAY	Colby Adams-Adams Electric LLC	2 Heat pumps	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-419	24-Oct-23	WAWRZYCKI JOANNA & STEIN BENJAMIN	12 COVESIDE	Matthew Flaherty-Casco Bay Electric	EV Charger/Generato	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-388	02-Oct-23	HARRIS WENDY & MYERS PHILIP	33 IDLEWOOD DRIVE	Shawn Paradis-Precision Electric	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-389	02-Oct-23	HUTCHINSON THOMAS & ANDREA	9 NAUTICAL DRIVE	John -Generator Super Center	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-395	04-Oct-23	GLECKMAN HARRIS & KRUT RIVA	103 SCHOONER RIDGE RD	Chris Bonney Electric	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-410	12-Oct-23	KARPMIAN ADAM & JACQUELINE	56 WINING WAY	Matthew Flaherty - Casco Bay Generators	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-411	16-Oct-23	DANIEL CARL & RANA	19 WESTBRANCH ROAD	First Choice Electric Maine-Ivan Papkee	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-413	17-Oct-23	SIMONDS ELIZABETH CARLISLE	21 WYMAN WAY	John Fearon	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00
23-429	31-Oct-23	WILLIAMS TIMOTHY & ELIZABETH	19 STURDIVANT ROAD	Roy Ingalls-Gowen Power Systems	Generator	\$0.00	\$50.00

MAP/LOT	OWNER	LOCATION	PERMIT ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACTOR	ESTIMATED COST	FEE	DT/DING PERM	Occ	Conditions
R02/29	HEWITT CHARLES & KNOTH PEDER	18 GREELY ROAD	03-Oct-23	Solar	Freedom Forever LLC - Matthew Hewitt	\$64,464.40	\$902.51	23-280		Solar installation with 56 panels mounted on roof, 17.6 kW. Issued subject to MUBEC / IRC 2015 as adopted by State of Maine.
R05/18	AITKEN STUART A	81 RANGE ROAD	04-Oct-23	Solar	Maine Solar Solutions- Maureen Williams	\$54,000.00	\$756.00	23-283		Solar installation with 36 panels mounted on roof, 15.2 kW. Issued subject to MUBEC / IRC 2015 as adopted by State of Maine.
R04/34AU67	OCEANVIEW AT CUMBERLAND LLC	1 FIREFLY LN	05-Oct-23	Solar	ReVision Energy	\$17,281.00	\$241.93	23-286		Solar installation with 14 panels mounted on roof, 5.6kW. Issued subject to MUBEC / IRC 2015 as adopted by State of Maine.
R04/34AU63	OCEANVIEW AT CUMBERLAND LLC	132 LITTLE ACRES DRIVE	05-Oct-23	Solar	ReVision Energy	\$17,281.00	\$241.93	23-288		Solar installation with 14 panels mounted on roof, 5.6kW. Issued subject to MUBEC / IRC 2015 as adopted by State of Maine.
R07B/3	COBURN SETH & HELEN	24 FIELD ROAD	25-Oct-23	Solar	ReVision Energy	\$52,469.00	\$734.57	23-306		Solar installation with 33 panels mounted on roof, 715.44 sf, 14.58 kW. Issued subject to MUBEC & IRC 2015 as adopted by State of Maine.

○ Commission (Mike)

- Invasive Subcommittee charter (Dave C) – thoughts:
  - Include other town properties like ROWs
  - Resource for private land owners
  - Tackle issue on larger scale
  - Pete mentioned that charter seemed to be “planning” only, didn’t have any “doing sections”. Dave will add “implement” to language.
  - Look into grants; see what other land trusts are doing; coordinate.
  - Jesse made motion to adopt charter – with “implement” added; Denny seconded; no further discussion; passed unanimously.
  - See Invasives Subcommittee Charter below:



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## CHARTER Invasives Subcommittee Lands and Conservation Commission Cumberland, Maine November 1, 2023

WHEREAS, invasive plants have become established throughout the Town of Cumberland (the “Town”) and continue to spread into public- and privately-owned forests, fields, rights-of-way and wetlands, and

WHEREAS, public and private lands protected from development remain at risk of habitat degradation due to the spread of invasive plants, and displacement of the native plant communities on which our wildlife depend, and

WHEREAS, the Town’s efforts to control invasive plants to date have been focused primarily on Town-owned forested lands, and

WHEREAS, a number of the Town’s citizens have expressed a desire to manage the invasives on their own properties, and

WHEREAS, effective management of invasive plants within the Town will require a variety of strategies such as education and outreach, professional services, support from the Public Works Department, and volunteer efforts, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Lands and Conservation Commission (LCC) is to promote the conservation of natural resources within the Town, develop educational programs to achieve greater public awareness of the importance and need for conservation within the Town, and to develop and recommend programs and policies to implement conservation-related goals and objectives,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the LCC establish an Invasives Subcommittee to promote the management of invasive plants in Town, engage with local stakeholders and develop and implement a coordinated plan to mitigate the impact of invasives on our natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Invasives Subcommittee consist of at least five (5) members appointed by the LCC with the initial member being David Cowan,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Invasives Subcommittee develop an education component so that interested parties can learn how to better manage invasives on private properties.

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## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Maine Coast Heritage Trust will do a talk at Val Halla November 16 discussion on invasive species. Use as a jumping off point. Will talk be recorded?
- Community Orchard Appointments (Jesse) – Jesse put notice in Crier and from those responding, six were selected, all with a variety of expertise. Denny made motion to approve the six to the Orchard Subcommittee; Gordon seconded; no discussion; passed unanimously. The terms of appointments are as follows:
  - Betsey Harding – 1 year
  - Michelle Gardiner – 1 year
  - Adam Blackwell – 2 years
  - Denise Thorrson – 2 years
  - Jack Iverson – 3 years
  - Will Harper – 3 yearsWelcome aboard!
- Mike mentioned that terms expire on some subcommittee and Commission members at the end of the year. Asked subcommittee chairs to find out which members would like to be reappointed.
- Forester Contract – Paul’s contract expires at the end of December 2023. All agreed that the partnership was working well, and his rates are reasonable. We should get contract renewal underway. A three-year contract requires the Town Council’s approval. Gordon said that Paul is interested in continuing working with the Town. Mike will put on next month’s agenda for final approval. Gordon motion for the Commission to pursue a three-year contract renewal with Paul Larivee; Josh second; no further discussion; passed unanimous.
- October Maine Conservation Commission Meeting (Mike) – Mike attended meeting. Said it was informative.
- Pete volunteered to help Mike with LCC budget accounting spreadsheet.
- Trails Subcommittee (John – from email notes)
  - Greely Woods
    - The Trails Subcommittee hardened soft and rooty sections of the Blue and the Green trails with four yards of gravel.
    - Lumber was delivered for a walkway across a 46-ft section of the Red Trail.
  - Rines Forest
    - CCLT (David Fitz) brush-hogged the Waterfalls Trail (Blue Trail) from Blanchard Rd to the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge in hopes that the Town can deliver gravel to the area this fall, conditions permitting. The section of the trail leading down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge from Rines Forest toward Blachard Rd is in very bad condition.



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- Cumberland Crossing – The whereabouts of the trail post and sign between Crossing Brook and the golf course remains a mystery. John will be replacing the post and sign.
- Forestry Subcommittee (Gordon):
  - Town Forest walk with members of the Town Council and Paul L Saturday November 4, 7:30. Meet at kiosk.
  - Management plans
    - Paul has almost completed the drafts of the invasive management plans for the Town Forest and Rines.
    - Update of the Town Forest management plan on the radar.
    - Greely Woods – Per the easement with CCLT, need to create a Management Plan and a Forest Management Plan. Need appraisal – value of land. Get from Town.
  - Invasive
    - Spraying finished for 2023; need ground to freeze to continue grinding in Twin Brook and then spray in fall. Paul knows name of a contractor who has a smaller grinder – perhaps use in Rines.
    - Land Trust had high school kids pulling invasives at Broad Cove. Look at getting a burn permit instead of hauling to dump.
- Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny)
  - Denny gave an historical perspective of how much has been accomplished in the Climate Action Plan from March 2021 to November 2023. All action items have been completed or are in progress.
  - Food waste (Riva) - Riva was contacted by a high school teacher on how to get the food waste generated at school to the Town's composting facility. The school would like to get back to single sort recycling or use of Garbage to Gardens instead of throwing all food waste in the trash. Ideally have a closed loop from school to composting facility to the community orchard.
  - Casco Bay grant funding – The remaining balance of \$4050 needs to be spent by June 2024. The Sustainability Subcommittee suggested that the money be split between creating a website by the Orchard Subcommittee volunteers that could host the Lawns Gone Wild educational materials as well as pay for additional graphic design work to improve them. The rest of the money would be spent in the spring for a town-wide postcard mailer to remind folks of sustainable landscaping steps they could take to protect Casco Bay (with a QR link to the website/additional materials).



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- Community Orchard (Jesse)
  - The subcommittee had their first “unofficial” meeting. They established roles and responsibilities:
    - Chair and orchard manager: Jesse
    - Community liaison: Denise
    - Educational Coordinator: Jack
    - Potential other roles as needed
  - The initial 90 trees have been ordered; cardboard is needed. Look at ordering some keystone trees: oak, black cherry, willow, poplar, birch. Also look at funding source.
  - Subcommittee held a work day with 23 volunteers setting up the orchard.
  - The shed pad in place; shed to be delivered and setup Friday.
  - Seed sowing workshop Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> at PML 10-12. A tool talk event possibly in January; food forest talk in March.
  - Set up orchard website – use some for the grant money for design and maintenance. Possible domain: [cumberlandcommunityorchard.org](http://cumberlandcommunityorchard.org). Website will link back to the Town website.
- Invasive Subcommittee (Dave C) – new Subcommittee Dave C chair. Thoughts:
  - How to get subcommittee members?
  - Need to create a plan – inventory what is the status of invasives beyond the town’s forests. What are other land owners doing?
  - Need to better understand how to tackle invasives along ROWs: Town’s, MDOT, utilities
  - Need public education – what is available for funding in this area.
  - Challenge to work effectively
  - Penny (Land Trust) suggested the need to look beyond town borders.
  - Dave C suggested using the Town’s Calander of Events as a way to get the word out to a broader audience than in the Crier. FMI – LCC email – [LCC@cumberlandmaine.com](mailto:LCC@cumberlandmaine.com)
  - Dave C has contacted Amanda Devine, Associate Director of Stewardship with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, to give a presentation at Val Halla postponed to November 16, from 6:30-9 on invasive plants.
- New Business/coming attractions (Mike)
  - Future for composting – no update
  - Tree City designation – no update
  - New Member documentation – no update
- Jesse made motion to adjourn meeting; Riva second; passed unanimously.

Next meeting – December 6, 7 PM.