

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: March 10, 2015(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; +=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++

To: CTL&CC members: Tom Gruber + Susan Nolde (abs)
Peter Bingham+ Brad Hilton *Sam York
Ted Chadbourne Ellen Hoffman David Young (abs)
David Ginsberg (abs) Bill Mullin (abs)

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting March 4th, 2015

- Minutes from February meeting were approved as written.
- Town Forest:
 - Logging is complete.
 - Brad has walked trail and says lot of brush
 - High School students to pull piles of brush off trail so town can chip – senior project
 - The snow ruts left by the logging operation should go away in the spring
 - One of the benches was broken during logging.
 - Gravel and culvert will be placed once snow melts. Need to wait for the ground to thaw else the culverts will likely shift. Dredging of canal will also be done when culverts are done.
 - Benches (4) – would like to replace with same type – rustic that look like they have been sawn from a log. Idea to see if could be made in high school woodworking shop or at PACE or maybe Fat Andy's. Need to take pictures and measurements. Would like to also preserve the plaques.
 - Knotweed – address issue in the spring. Look into Joe's recommendations.
 - Trail "steps" – wait until culverts put in to see if still needed (near M9 and M12).
 - To do:
 - Decide what to do about the roots.
 - Phragmites along trail – address in the spring
 - Organize buckthorn pull. EH suggested tying this in with a caching event. Should probably have Joe come back May/June time frame to assess success of buckthorn efforts.
 - Continue cleanup of harvested areas
 - Update Maine Trail Finders - need gpx file of old and new trail. EH and Bill Shane will map with Town's new GPS in spring. Update verbiage on trail description (EH)
- Bill Shane will let us know when training session for new GPS.
- Grant to inventory ash trees in town - Bill M will contact Allison and see if she can point us in the right direction. Bill will also talk to Deb the tree warden in Yarmouth and find out about where to get tags, cost, and when is a good time to inventory trees.

Sam spoke with Sue Nolde and she is interested in writing grant proposal. How should the trees be mapped? (no update)

- Grant for invasive plant education, control and eradication. Possible have Sue look into this as well. Sam and Sue are working this – figuring out what has the best chance of success.
- Locate and map hickory trees in town forest – wait until spring.
- Invasive plants brochure - Dave G gave Sam a preliminary version for us to peruse and offer feedback. Bill Shane will have Town print in same format as Falmouth so we can see what we are working with.
- “Greely Forest” – 3 interconnected properties between Greely Rd Ext and Cottage Farm (R6 lot 16, R6 lot 15, U13A lot 18). Brad’s proposed (and accepted) motion that the Town Council take the following actions:
 - Assign the name “Greely Forest” to these properties and the existing pedestrian ROW connection between them;
 - Work to legally conserve the “Greely Forest” as permanent open space and specific trail connector use as has occurred over the recent few decades with basically no Town Government or Town Committee management or expense.

This motion was amended to:

- Change “Greely Forest” to “Greely Woods”; and
- State that this committee recommends that if the “T” shaped lot is sold, that there be a 50’ ROW (pedestrian easement).

EH seconded motion; passed unanimously. Sam will draft a letter to Town Council stating our position and attach the amended motion.

- Town owned properties on Range Way – link to Rock Ridge. 2 skinny parcels about 15 acres (abuts Buzz Lamb’s properties). Brad submitted a proposal (below) Ted seconded; passed unanimously. Sam will draft a letter to Town Council stating our position and attach this motion:

CL&CC resolves that, within 9 months, the Town Council assign the CL&CC to develop a long range (say 10 year) plan for the two Town lots (ID R03-25 and -26) off of Range Way.

Specifically, details include

- A. Both of these lots are very narrow and very long, abutting, wood lots of roughly 9A to 10A each,
- B. The long part of the lots run {extend} from “an unimproved section of the end of Range Way” over to the “Falmouth Town boundary”.
- C. The lots abut to a designated open space land [with a scenic trail system] called “Rock Ridge”.

Specifically, proposed plans:

- D. Shall include a formal survey (likely only expense to Town).
- E. Shall include a walking trail plan from “Rock Ridge” to the Falmouth Boundary and formalizing the conservation aspect of the property.
- F. Shall include a long range professional forestry management plan that incorporates the
 - a. Trail need

- b. Trail maintenance
- c. Intent to raise logging income for the Town

- Ted requested from Bill Shane a list of town owned properties – indicating which ones are up for sale. Ted was curious of the conservation value of these town owned parcels.
- Rines Forest – no update
- Vernal pools – no update – Sam will contact Penny A to keep us in the loop
- Knights Pond – fundraising on going
- Ideas/ Project 2015
 - Town Forest – see above
 - Look into some sort of joint meeting between Twin Brooks, Town Forest and Rines Forest committees
 - Ash tree survey (trees and Emerald Ash Borer) – see above
 - Arbor Day and tree giveaway (Bill M)
 - Medicinal plant talk (Bill M get info)
 - Cumberland Circle trail – Brad presented idea of scope. Need to map with town's GPS
- **Next meeting April 1st 7pm**