

## **Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission**

Date: May 14, 2014 (\* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting May 7th, 2014

- Minutes from April were approved. One correction, Bill Shane was absent.
- Town Forest:
  - Logging done for year. Some discussion around Bill Shane's concern as to whether it was worth it; both in regard to the amount of money it generated and the way the forest currently looks. Brad suggested next cuttings should take out the larger trees instead of the weaker.
  - Buckthorn (and honeysuckle) currently just cutting and pulling plants as work through forest – not applying any herbicide.
  - Brad suggested use foliar spray once leaves appear instead of painting when cut. Need appropriate license (town)? Paint on later.
  - Town apply gravel in some low spots in winter?
  - Need to clean out channel. Brad will attempt with shovel. Help with water flow and perhaps with spread of Phragmites.
  - September meeting should plan to meet and possibly walk forest with IFM before meeting (6:00).
  - Suggestion of walking Farwell forest as a comparison – since was very recently logged.
  - Need a few more trail markers. Don't worry about roots on trail for now. Will address after finish current trail work.
  - Need plan to deal with buckthorn in recently harvested area
    - What needs to be done in areas where buckthorn cut/run over during harvesting
    - Use logging funds to have IFM cut buckthorn and apply chemical application in and around harvested area
    - Joe Anderson/Bill Shane and IFM needs to develop a plan for this

- Trail relocations – work currently being done led by Brad with help from Ellen and Sam. Cutting new trail from behind the Town Hall to eventually meet up with existing trail at Marker 4 (some work was done from that direction earlier). Using chain saw to clear brush and piling away from trail. Manually removing as much buckthorn and honeysuckle as possible. Most of the honeysuckle can be pulled out – roots and all. Just cutting buckthorn and not applying any herbicide. Also doing some trail improvement in this area (cleaning up some large pine trees and tree roots). Where trail is wet, laying some of the tree branches and stems along trail.
- Invasive species (insects) – presentation by State (Forestry Service). Invite surrounding towns and Land Trust – regional issue. Bill M coordinating; moved to Oct timeframe (Oct 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00). Penny will look at Land Trust doing invitations. Record and put on town website.
- Comprehensive Plan update committee sign-up completed. 16 members. Public is allowed to attend meetings and give input.
- Penny emailed notice of Maine Association of Conservation Commissions - Annual Meeting-Conference - May 17 to be held in Brunswick 9-3
- Maine Association of Planners held June 6<sup>th</sup> Bath. Bill Shane mentioned that vernal pool people from University of Maine working on a program to protect vernal pools in rural areas and forgive those destroyed in growth areas. Need to wait until end of LePage administration before any vernal pool progress moves forward.
- Strategic Planning – when is enough conservation? Members should sent thoughts back to Sam. Should this issue be considered for discussion and if so should there be a separate subcommittee or discuss as a group?
- Rines Forest – no update
- Blueberry Hill logging – no update
- Vernal pools – see above
- Invasive species grant search – no update
- Knights Pond – no update
- Ideas for Goals/Projects for 2014.
  - Arbor Day – tree handout with 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class (May). 288 plugs ready for pickup any time after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Need to be put into bags with planting instructions. Penny looking for volunteers to help distribute and put in bags. Exact date TBD.
  - Invasive species presentation to Mr. Madden's 6th grade class to tie in with their fall tree project. Penny will contact Mr. Madden to see if interested. Bill M will see if can organize something with cooperative extension.
  - Invasive species education: see minutes above

- Conservation subdivision ordinance: being discussed along with Comprehensive Plan Update in sub-committee.
- (Sub)Committee to work on trails throughout town – no update other than Town Forest
- Tree City – Committee decided not to pursue this idea
- Backyard habitat – still open for discussion.
- Establish volunteer core – discussed somewhat to use in town forest. No real plan of action.
- Look into purchasing GPS – needed for a variety of projects throughout town as well as for trail location. Penny mentioned that the Land Trust is purchasing two and they will let us use if available. Town is looking to procure a very accurate one that may be overboard for our needs. Ted voiced his opinion that this committee doesn't need one. We voted last week to buy one. We will hold off for now.
- **Next meeting June 4th 7pm.**