

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: June 12, 2013 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; +=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting June 6th, 2013

- Minutes from May meeting were approved with some minor clarifications (added to May minutes). Changes were modification to #5 – issue with trail widening; and #9 addition of who agreed to take lead on various aspects of Town Forest improvement.
- Welcomed new member Susan Nolde to commission.
- Meeting was spent discussion Town Forest improvements. Penny had written up a list of priorities (see below):

1) Stabilize the Forest

- Control Invasives by Identifying a Multistage Plan & Field Work (paid and volunteer)
- Selective and Sustainable Forest Management of Trees
- Introduction of Native Species
- Research Grants to Support Efforts

2) Trail Network

- Define existing trail and future extensions
- Improve the trail while maintaining a natural experience
- Mark trails with signs/blazes
- Create trail map,
- Add Large Map and Handheld Maps to Kiosk

3) Educational Signs

- Research Grants to Support Effort to add Informational Signs
- Research Examples of Signs
- Identify and Ask Naturalist to Help with Content of Signs
- Identify Company to Make Signs
- Town Installs Signs

- Stabilize the Forest (#1) and Trail Network (#2) can be done concurrently.
- Need to add clean-up of old signage to #3.
- Invasive species control – eradicate as best as possibly. Physically pull, cut, and have a professional apply herbicide. Efforts in back area to hold the line.
- Need to balance harvest and eradication; needs to be no cost to the town.

- Brad H had found a company that use horses to harvest. Smaller crew would be less destructive. Also talk of using logger who did first pass of Rines Forest. He is currently working at a forest in Cumberland. Need to get proposal from each to compare time frame and cost. Still need a staging area.
- Had previously voted to adapt the Forest Management Plan prepared by IFM. It was noted that sections 2, 4, and 5 from the original FMP are high and accessible (drier). The plan also mentioned trimming the lower branches. Ted said should be cut to 17' for lumber quality. Perhaps use public works to do this.
- Need to prevent use of forest and trail during harvest and invasive species removal. Should post. Also need to update Maine Trail Finder's website if forest trail unavailable.
- Joe Anderson scheduled to start Saturday June 8th to GPS location of buckthorn – weather dependent. Otherwise, postpone to the following Saturday (June 15th).
- Other thoughts
 - Need to select cutting team – want lite a touch as possible.
 - Trails need to be at least 10' wide to get town equipment on them. Trails in the worse shape (roots) are already that wide. Rerouting or improving?
 - Issue of accessibility. Dave Y came up with a concept plan to create new shorter trail loop. Voted to accept concept plan – unanimously approved.
- Brad H presented idea of a “silent” trail system around Cumberland.
- Received packet with 3 properties up for auction. Did not have time to go over them.
- Planning Board Project – nothing discussed.
- Rines Forest – no update
- Blueberry Hill logging – no update
- Vernal pools – no update
- Invasive species grant search – no update
- Continuing projects/goals for 2013:
 - Invasive species education: Possibly do a fall presentation with someone from Cooperative Extension.

- Educational site walk of Rines Forest scheduled for September 29th (1:00 pm) with the Maine Tree Club.
- Update Trail Guide. Sam will contact Brian Sterns to see status of trail system (no update). No update on trail connection between Falmouth trail and Rines Forest. Penny mentioned town looking to buy a Trimble GPS (grant through Norcross Foundation). Use for a variety of Town-wide purposes.
- **Next meeting July 3rd 7:00 (actually met July 10th).**