

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: May 3, 2013 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; +=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++ (late)

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting May 1st, 2013

- Minutes from April meeting were approved.
 - Jon Jennings is no longer a liaison for this committee.
 - Before meeting Brad, Sam, Bill, Ellen and Ted met at the Town Forest to test drive the weed wrenches. Spent about 45 minutes and took out roughly 12' x 18' section of buckthorn in the heavily infested section (near town hall). Fairly labor intensive but once you got the hang of it, it went much smoother. Spent a good part of meeting discussing what we should do; options for buckthorn removal:
 - Use the wrenches
 - Cut and paint
 - Use a bush hog type apparatus.
1. Main objective is to make the forest walkable and usable. Lesser priority
 - a. informational signs
 - b. directional signs (especially when trail ends along road)
 - c. cleanup of old info signs
 - d. fix benches (and clean plaques on benches)
 2. Also problem of roots – inhibit walking in sections of path. Need to put gravel or mulch then gravel over roots. Bill S doesn't like mulch because it breaks down but not an issue with gravel on top. Use mulch to protect roots.
 3. Relocating parts of trail where severe root problems.
 4. Some areas need cross pipe or logs where water on both sides of trail.
 5. Discussion of widening trail; historical resistance. Need to widen trail to 10 ft. to get equipment down so could move gravel over roots. Wait until after logging. Spread gravel in winter. Look at forestry plan. Build trail so equipment can get to back. Ted made motion to authorize winding of loop trail up to 10 ft. wide. EH amended Ted's motion to make it a one-shot deal. If need to widen trail again, need to revisit issue. PA seconded amendment, Ted against. All approved amended motion, except PA. (Note – this was later amended that Ted didn't agree with the wording and wanted to strike the fact that we needed to wait until after logging took place before any work could be done. Voted 5-1 for striking, PA against and SY abstained.)

6. Logging not until winter, does less damage. What about logging using horses? Check with small woodland owners of Maine or blacksmith organizations to find outfits that do this. Also question of who is going to do logging – is that set, since now have new forester?
 7. Need to close loop with Joe Anderson on his action plan (dated April 15th) for invasive species removal. Motion to accept Joe's proposed action was unanimously accepted.
 8. TG suggested we could use prison labor to help with eradication efforts (from Windham Correction Center). Maybe coordinate this with Joe.
 9. Bill M volunteered to take lead on widening the trail (removal of buckthorn on either side). Dave Y agreed to take lead on trail layout. Brad H agreed to take lead on invasive species eradication.
- Reminder of invasive species presentation by Bob Bittenbender from Gilsland Farm (Maine Audubon) Saturday at Town Hall 9:00. Bob prefers to do presentation with a smaller group so we shouldn't be concerned that we didn't have much time to advertise. Presentation will be both indoor and walk through part of Town Forest.
 - Received packet with 3 properties up for auction. Did not have time to go over them.
 - Planning Board Project – should town be more restrictive than State? DEP says area in question is not a stream. Neighbors say properties should not be in shore land zoning. Neighbors want buffer changed from 250 ft. to 75 ft. setback. This would allow for more developable land. SY will check with Pam to get info.
 - New England cottontail – no NEC were found in our test sites.
 - 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: May 4th 9-11. Possibly do a fall one as well - perhaps have someone from Cooperative Extension give presentation to town.
 - 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 June 5th 7:00.**