

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: March 15, 2013(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting March 6th, 2013

- Minutes from February meeting were approved with some minor corrections.
- Bill Shane mentioned that an update to the Comprehensive Plan was coming up and asked Sam if he was willing to help out. Issue consolidating zones RR1 + RR2 to RR2 zone.
- Penny mentioned that the Cumberland Mainland Island Trust earned a national accreditation award. The award “recognizes the highest standards of excellence” in all their operations.
- Vernal Pool night – Penny will contact members to let them know when the frogs and salamanders are on the move at the Frog Pond on Range Road.
- Land’s Committee budget: Tom suggested that our request for \$20,000 too much. Better off having a detailed plan. He said there is a place holder amount currently in the budget. Need money for maintenance, signs and invasive species control; wait on how to implement until after logging. Bill M mentioned possible grant through Casco Bay Estuary Partnership. Could do grass root effort for signage (public works) and some trail maintenance.
- New England cottontail – PA will send a letter to volunteers to remind them to wrap up surveys and submit to IFW. So far all pellets that have been tested were not NEC. IFW is sending a few people out to look as some priority sites in Cumberland. John Levitt (Twin Brook advisory committee) mentioned possibly manage an area of Twin Brooks for NEC.
- Town Forest – No logging took place – not cold enough/long enough. Bill Shane will contact Project Canopy people see if can get another extension. Jay Braunscheidel is no longer working for IFM so cannot be involved in the Town Forest project. TG mentioned Joe Anderson is licensed to eradicate invasive species. Need to come up with a plan – on how to tackle – where to get best bang for the buck. Go out before next meeting (April 3rd) at 5:30 to look at Town Forest with Joe. Bill Shane will contact Joe to see if he can attend our next meeting and do a site walk. Also ask Joe about roots – use sand or gravel between them. He also has trail building experience.
- Mr. Paynter’s property on Knight’s Pond – The ditch has been filled in (beginning of year). Town gave some materials but no labor. PA questioned whether there should be any follow-up. Bill Shane will ask Bill Longley to follow-up make sure work was done according to DEP standards.

- Rines Forest activity – Boundary trail back of property. Very wet in spots – needs elevated boardwalk. Use gravel in spots? Sam questioned if the trail could be moved outside these areas. Penny suggested the Sam should talk to Chris and Julie Franklin who live across the street and are the stewards of the property.
- Blueberry Hill logging – Sam mentioned that more trees appear to have been marked on Rebecca Leland's property. Not sure what this means. No other activity.
- Vernal pool – no update. Letter sent to state drafted by Sally Stockwell and Penny (approved by Bill Shane) explaining the process the Town went through to get landowner permission to survey their property for vernal pools. Penny will follow up with State. At some point will contact property owners letting them know which vernal pools were deemed significant. Possibly do follow-up article in Forecaster.
- Aquifer ordinance has passed. Highlights the need to protect the aquifer. Brad suggested that we should document quality of water. Need to know baseline of chemicals, storing methods and containment. Businesses in aquifer should have training. Monitoring should be ongoing.
- Invasive species grant search – wait until spring. Need \$\$ for trail maintenance as well.
- Question of how much land should be conserved? Off tax rolls or in conservation easement. Balancing act. Does this fit our overall goal? Look at Comprehensive Plan. Benchmark with neighboring communities. TG will get comparative report. Use as guiding principal. Issues of habitat corridors, recreation or school use. Move to a sub-committee. – no update
- Continuing projects/goals for 2013:
 - Invasive species education – Sam will try and firm up a date with Bob Bittenbender April 16-May 16 2013. Bill M also mentioned invasive insects (fruit fly). 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. Sam will confirm this with Amy Witt.
 - 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.
 - Need to stay up to date on projects surrounding towns are taking on; share common issues and concerns – trails, invasive species. Connectivity – natural resources wildlife habitat.
- **Next meeting April 3rd 7:00. Meet 5:30 at Town Forest for site walk.**