

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: January 13, 2013 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++
To: CTL&CC members: Brad Hilton (new) Brian Restuccia (abs)
Penny Asherman (abs) Ellen Hoffman *Sam York
Ted Chadbourne (abs) David Holman (new-abs) David Young (abs)
Tom Gruber + Bill Mullin (new-abs)

From: Ellen Hoffman
Re: Meeting January 2, 2013

- Minutes from December meeting were not discussed.
- Three new members – as noted above, though only one was in attendance.
- Follow-up on Sue Ellen Bardwell and Andrew Faveru from Yarmouth (re: bike path connectivity between Yarmouth and Cumberland); TG mentioned he needed more info about what they were planning and how it related to Cumberland and our Committee before he can discuss with the Rec dept. TG will follow up with Yarmouth.
- Re: Land's Committee budget: Sam will submit a formal request to Bill Shane and cc Tom G. Need to make annual request for funding (\$20,000) to combat invasive species in Town's open space parcels.
- New England cottontail – state endangered species. Looking for evidence of NEC north of Portland. Last survey over 5 years ago. Several of us had already gone out and surveyed parcels (Sam and TG still need to be trained). Brad pretty sure he saw some NEC tracks – and collected samples. EH took pictures of tracks but probably belong to Snowshoe hare.
- Mr. Paynter's property on Knight's Pond – at issue is to keep property zoned as resource protected and not revert back to limited residential as planning board recommended. On agenda for Jan 14th Town Council meeting. DEP was at the site to look at the ditch that was dug and is draining the pond. Waiting for DEP -pending violations. Might require repair to outlet which Mr. Paynter will have to do. Should raise water level to original level. The pond feeds Mill Creek and flows into the Rines Forest. The property cannot be sold or developed until this is cleaned up. Town will help somewhat but won't help with actual repair work.
- Town forest - Currently there is no cutting lined up for the Town Forest. Need to get the cutting done this winter. Bill Shane will contact Jay Braunscheidel and find out where things stand.
- Rines Forest activity – Bill Shane walked the Boundary (red) Trail with Sally Stockwell and Bruce Wiles. The Town had started addressing some of the low wet areas in the fall. Sally and Bruce are looking for a solution for the long wet stretch – possibly a low raised wooden walkway.

- Blueberry Hill logging – Sam mentioned lot of tree marking – not hazardous trees and well within the 200 foot setback and some even within 100 foot setback. Bill Shane will talk with Bill Longley about what is allowed. (Forester Eric Grove)
- Rebecca Leland owns west side of Knights Pond and Blueberry Hill. She recently approached the town and Land Trust to see if interested in purchasing. Many parties at the table now. Option on property to purchase – will take several years to raise funds. Trust for Public Land has skill and resources to help with this. No update.
- Brad Hilton trails, connect Blanchard Rd to Greely Rd over two town owned properties. Bill Shane is currently doing an inventory on town owned properties – foreclosure list: 10-12 properties. Need to follow Murray Policy - ask schools first and Lands Committee next when deciding disposition of the foreclosed properties. Concern of how do we preserve this trail network? Town Council workshop on Jan 28th to go over list of properties – Brad will attend.
- Vernal pool – State dropped the ball. Still work in progress; homeowners need to know where things stand. Bill will contact Sally Stockwell to see if she can get any clarification from the State. The State is also questioning whether we had proper landowner permission to survey property.
- Draft aquifer ordinance in the works. On agenda for Jan 14th meeting of Town Council to send recommendation to Planning Board. Existing businesses need to catalog and inventory chemicals and need to create a spill plan. Education – keep on the front burner. Need to document any change of use of property. Need recurring inspections on an annual basis.
- Invasive species grant search – wait until spring. Need \$\$ for trail maintenance as well.
- Sam brought up issue to debate –if we have enough land in conservation.
- Remaining projects/goals for 2012:
 - Invasive species education – Bob Bittenbender was unable to do presentation this fall so try and schedule something for April 16-May 16 2013 (both indoors and out). Sam will contact him. Need to commit to date.
 - Educational site walk of Rines Forest scheduled for last Sunday in September 2013 (1:00) with the Maine Tree Club. Contact - Amy Witt.
 - Update Trail Guide. Sam will contact Brian Sterns to see status of trail system. No more info about trail to connect Falmouth trail with Rines Forest. Penny mentioned Norcross Foundation had grants to upgrade field equipment. Get GPS units to help map trails.
 - See what projects other towns are taking on. Also look into what is happening through Maine Conservation Commissions. Sam will forward any info he

receives. TG spoke with Steve Palmer chair of North Yarmouth Selectmen. Discussed some common issues (invasive species – funding to combat, grants and education, and connection of trails) and possibly work jointly on these issues. Connectivity – natural resources wildlife habitat.

- **Next meeting February 6th 7:00**