

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: October 17, 2011

To: CTL&CC members: (* = Chair; + = liaison TC) Steve Moriarty + (abs)
Penny Asherman Ellen Hoffman David Young
Ted Chadbourne *Sam York

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting October 5th, 2011

- Minutes from July and September meetings were approved.
- Meeting was spent discussing Town Forest Management Plan by Jay B from IFM. Bill Shane and Tom Gruber were in attendance.
- Plan finished – need recommendations regarding Stand 4 – unmanaged forest.
- Go ahead with plan, motion to open up discussion to amend Jay's plan. Motion seconded.
- David agrees with Sally's comments last month that should leave Stand 4 as is; deal with buckthorn in rest of forest. Concern that cutting Stand 4 so heavily will change character of that section; also open up for buckthorn invasion.
- Idea of having volunteers – community service project (or church group) cut buckthorn. Bill S concerned about level of commitment. He mentioned town employees who will be trained (force account).
- Plans:
 - Plan A – do what Jay recommends – use money from cutting to control buckthorn
 - Plan B – do nothing with Stand 4 but do rest of plan
 - Plan C – not cut trees at all; cut invasive species – use volunteers since no money if don't cut.
- Sam reminded us of goals for project – improve pathways/trails and educational component. Just implementing Jay's plan will not accomplish that.
- Need long term control of buckthorn. Need to cut Stand 4 to get money to improve rest of forest.
- Penny suggested invite Bob Bittenbender from Maine Audubon to give talk on controlling invasive species.

- Agree to Plan A with feathering of trail edges. All monies from tree removal go toward buckthorn removal. Need long term commitment from Town of buckthorn control. Need educational component to town forest. Responsible of commission to find grants for trail building and maintenance. Also need to clean up and improve signage (and trail markers). Ted made motion to accept. Town to commit funds for buckthorn removal from tree removal. (Bill also suggested use force account – when not busy in Val Halla). Lands Committee will commit to pursue grants for trail building/maintenance including signage. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.
- Ted made motion (David seconded) for wider trails. Goal of trails 8 feet minimum for Town to maintain. Shorter trails can be smaller (4-6 feet). Need to still figure out if we need/ want to use trails Jay will cut to do tree cutting. Approved unanimously.
- Cottontail issue in town forest – no answer yet.
- Penny mentioned Land Trust showing the documentary “Play Again” Wednesday November 2nd 7:00 at the Cumberland Congregational Church about teens who are obsessed with technology and spend more time in the virtual world than the natural world.
- Planning board projects – will be commented on separately.
- Vernal Pools – no update
- **Next meeting November 2nd 7:00 (or attend film instead?)**