

## **Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission**

Date: April 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 Jon Jennings + (abs) David Young (abs)  
Tom Gruber + (abs) Bill Mullin

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting April 3rd, 2013

- Minutes from March meeting were approved.
- Site walk of Town Forest preceded meeting. Joe Anderson (expert on invasive species and eradication) accompanied us. Most of meeting was recapping walk and conditions in the Town Forest. Ideas (concentrated mostly on Buckthorn):
  - Figure out how extensive – how thick, how large area (acres).
  - Encourage some open areas
  - Some areas too far along to eradicate – now just maintain
  - Need to treat after cutting or will sprout
  - Wet areas can cause problems getting machines in.
  - Special application in wet areas – need to use aquatic-approved herbicides.
  - Can use non-toxic herbicides – targeted area.
  - Fall best time. Basal spray can use fall to winter.
  - Maybe start from land-fill area and work backwards otherwise too overwhelming. Start of trail near Town Hall heavily infested.
  - More important to keep areas currently clear, clear – control. Treat 10 feet either side of trail – open it up. Work backwards from clear areas. Visually helpful.
  - Train the trainers – year to year
  - Might need trail closure for a time
  - Weed wrench
  - Buckthorn pull
  - NRCS – Wayne Monroe money - wildlife habitat improvement – weed control.
- Town Forest – No logging took place – not cold enough/long enough. Bill Shane will contact Project Canopy people see if can get another extension on grant.
- 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: Bill M mentioned possible grant through Casco Bay Estuary Partnership. Could do grass root effort for signage (public works) and some trail maintenance. – no update

- New England cottontail – PA sent an email to volunteers to remind them to wrap up surveys and submit to IFW. So far all pellets that have been tested were not NEC. – no update
- Mr. Paynter's property on Knight's Pond – The ditch has been filled in. 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. – no update
- Rines Forest activity – Boundary trail back of property. Very wet in spots – needs something like an elevated boardwalk. – no update
- Blueberry Hill logging – no update
- Vernal pool - Letter sent to state 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. – no update
- 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 possibly May 5th. 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 29<sup>th</sup> (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 May 1st 7:00.**