

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: December 11, 2014 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++
To: CTL&CC members: David Ginsberg Bill Mullin
Penny Asherman (abs) Tom Gruber + (abs) Susan Nolde (abs)
Peter Bingham+ Brad Hilton *Sam York
Ted Chadbourne Ellen Hoffman David Young (abs)

From: Ellen Hoffman
Re: Meeting December 3rd, 2014

- Minutes from November meeting were approved as written.
- Discussion about members who are unable to attend on a regular basis. Idea of research project or grant writing. Look into grants for ash tree for identification and then later ash borer. Bill M will contact Allison or Jen at state for guidance.
- Town Forest:
 - Brad brought in copies of new(er) maps that will be displayed at kiosk and at the trail entryway on Drowne Rd. The new maps show the old and new trails as well as the future trails and placements of markers. Display of updated trails will be at trail entrance kiosk by parking.
 - Brad did some cutting on one of the future trails (parallel to railroad tracks). Also noted damage from latest storm – buckthorn hanging over trail.
 - Bill Shane said signs are in the works to explain continuation of trail by condos and ball fields.
 - Logger is waiting for ground to freeze before proceeding.
 - EH will “repaint” the hickory so town will not cut.
 - Brad – cleaned up the 2 info signs along trail with Clorox and water. Look much better. No more freedom trail signs. Brad thinks benches should be removed but plaques saved and perhaps displayed somehow.
 - Ellen mentioned steep embankments near M9 and M12 need “steps”
 - Culverts and gravel hopefully added this winter.
 - To do:
 - Decide what to do about the roots.
 - Phragmites along trail
 - Organize buckthorn pull. EH suggested tying this in with a caching event.
 - Continue cleanup of harvested area
 - Update Maine Trail Finders on trail modifications (need digital map to send them). Should walk completed old and new trail with new town GPS. Also need to update informational verbiage on website. Ellen will do this.

- Invasive species (insects) – presentation by State Forestry Service. Bill M will send Allison a thank you note.
- See about getting a grant to inventory ash trees in town. Bill M will contact Allison and see if she can point us in the right direction. Bill will also talk to Deb the tree warden in Yarmouth and find out about where to get tags, cost, and when is a good time to inventory trees. Possibly have Sue Nolde look into writing grant proposal.
- Payson Property - issue of road widths for subdivision. Sidewalk of some type is needed – separate from road. Impact and speed issues. Close on property this month.
- Invasive plants brochure - create one similar to Falmouth's. See how they got funding. Dave G will look into this.
- “Greely Forest” – 3 interconnected properties between Greely Rd Ext and Cottage Farm (R6 lot 16, R6 lot 15, U13A lot 18). Brad proposed a motion that the Town Council take the following actions:
 - Assign the name “Greely Forest” to these properties and the existing pedestrian ROW connection between them;
 - Work to legally conserve the “Greely Forest” as permanent open space and specific trail connector use as has occurred over the recent few decades with basically no Town Government or Town Committee management or expense.

10' ROW between Crystal Land and Cottage Farm properties. Peter B mentioned there could be an easement issue on private lands could cause delay. Brad motions accepted as written (all in favor except Ted). Ted brought up name issue and ideas of “conserve” and “open space”. Sam will prepare letter for Town Council Dec 22 meeting. Earlier site walk by Town Council seemed positive; impressed with trails.

- Rines Forest – no update
- Vernal pools – no update
- Invasive species grant search – no update
- Knights Pond – fundraising on going. Roughly \$216,000 needed by June 2015.
- Ideas/ Project 2015
 - Town Forest – continue trail improvement and buckthorn removal in spring
 - Look into some sort of joint meeting between Twin Brooks, Town Forest and Rines Forest committees.
 - Ash tree survey (trees and Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day and tree giveaway
 - Medicinal plant talk (Bill M get info)
 - Cumberland Circle trail.
- **Next meeting Jan 7th 7pm**