

Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission

Date: February 5, 2017

(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.; ^(T) = trails SC; ^(F) = forest SC)

Bill Shane++; Tom Gruber +; Peter Bingham+

To: CTL&CC members:

Ellen Hoffman	^(F) Ted Chadbourne (late)	^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee
Mike Schwindt	^(F) Warren Graumann	^(T) John Jensenius
*Sam York	^(F) Henry Milburn (abs)	^(T) Shawn McBairty
David Young (abs)	^(F) Sally Stockwell	^(T) Paul Weiss
	^(F) Bob Waterhouse	

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting February 1, 2017

- Note – these are unofficial minutes. This is the first meeting of the reorganized Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission (L&CC). Officers have not been selected. Sam York is acting chair; Ellen Hoffman is acting secretary. The subcommittees will decide who the chair for that subcommittee is. The chairs (at least) for each subcommittee will attend the L&CC meetings.
- Bill opened the meeting. Introductions were made. Bill discussed history of this Committee, and Charter of Land & Conservation Ordinance. Bill pointed out that the Town has close to 1000 acres of open space that we are the stewards of and stressed that the committee and subcommittees need to work together. Members are free to switch between subcommittees or into main committee. Clarified that the Commission is not writing the ordinance, only supplying suggestions. Someone on each of the subcommittee need to take notes of meetings (don't need to be official minutes).
 - Trails Subcommittee – concerned with both trails and connections for a variety of uses such as walking, biking, snowmobiling. Stressed the need to connect easements between towns and through Cumberland. Need a master plan. This committee works independent of the oversight (management) committee.
 - Forest Subcommittee – need to consolidate management plans for the variety of our large forested parcels (Rines, Town Forest, Twin Brooks, and Blueberry Hill). Need to take into consideration possible competing interests; very different properties. Need to be advocates (stewards) for these forests. Issue of invasive species – how to manage within the forests and educate others about the issue.

- Management/oversite committee – deals with environmental issues, habitat coordination, interact with the Planning Board, idea of conservation subdivision: protect important lands and trails (wetlands, forest, habitat) develop on what is left. Gives recommendation to Town Council on land purchases and properties. The liaisons between Town Council and L&CC (Tom Gruber and Peter Bingham) will try and attend meetings. They have a sense of where the council is on issues. Bill mentioned that we can provide feedback to town as question or comments of projects as questions/comments; don't need to draft official letters.
- Sam went over packet that each member received. He discussed what types of project we've been involved with the past few years. Also our comments/feedback to the ordinance committee on rewording of the L&CC Ordinance and the proposed operating structure of the reorganized L&CC.

===== Previous minutes below =====

- Town Forest remaining issues (MS and EH):
 - Update map and verbiage at kiosk – waiting to finalize map with trail names, trail (GPS) tracks and possibly Markers and bench locations. If possible use better data so landfill is not brown. Bill has the replacement verbiage for the sign.
 - When map complete need to print out maps for distribution and put online.
 - Cleanup old tape (Mike and Ellen) – this is on-going. Mike and Ellen have made multiple trips. Also, question of property boundary.
 - Move signs or put up some type of mini kiosk at the entrance by Village Green. There is no indication that this is the trail into the Town Forest.
 - Put new CT logo at terminus
 - Need to update MaineTrailfinders.com when all work is done.
 - There are several places along trail that directional markers (with distances) are needed. Mike and Ellen will relay this info to Bill.
 - Repair kiosk roof (scout project?) Needs re-shingling.
 - Need to clean up an area of trash/tires that was uncovered when Paul Napolitano and his “Brontosaurus” mechanically cut a section of buckthorn by the landfill.

- No update on squaring off property boundary in field (lama lady). The signs in field should be moved to show new property boundary.
 - Nature Trail. (Mike and Ellen) Need to get all data (trail loops, railroad/field trail, cross/connector trail, benches, markers, storyboard signs and potential items to ID) on one map so can start winnowing potential items down by location and duplication. There will need to be some cleanup around the “showcased” items so they stand out better. Still need to decide about signage. Idea of pursuing a grant through Project Canopy. Mike contacted a company (in Kansas) to see about getting a quote for different sign types. Still need to decide on what should be on each sign – format. Should they differ by type of item (flower, tree, general info or question)?
 - Butterfly garden (MS, EH) – Mike took possession of a truckload of native plants donated by Plainview Farms to use in a butterfly garden. Possibly establish on edge of field off railroad trail near cattails. This will wait until spring. Plants currently at Mike’s house. Have Public Works move the bench from along the old trail to the garden area.
- Trail Guide – on hold pending trail information – maybe do a partial update
 - Education – bats, brown tail moth invasive species. Look into presentation by state or cooperative extension.
 - **Next meeting March 1st 7pm**