

Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission

(Oversight Committee)

Date: April 17, 2017

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

Bill Shane++ (abs); Tom Gruber +; Peter Bingham+

To: CTL&CC members:

Ellen Hoffman	^(F) Ted Chadbourne	^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee (abs)
Susan Nolde (abs)	^(F) Warren Graumann	^(T) John Jensenius
Mike Schwindt	^(F) Tim Nastro	^(T) Shawn McBrearty (abs)
*Sam York	^(F) Sally Stockwell (abs)	^(T) Paul Weiss
David Young	^(F) Judith Wohl (abs)	

Note: Only members of the Oversight Committee are expected to attend.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting April 5, 2017

- March minutes were approved as written.
- Sam had previously reviewed and submitted comments for Solar Way and Spring Valley subdivisions.
- Most of meeting spent discussing Paul's suggestions: 1.) The town should have right of first refusal to purchase properties of importance; and 2.) There should be a balance between the properties lost to development with "savings" in other areas.
Comments:
 - Paul noted that the destruction of land for development was basically rubber stamped; projects just seem to be freely approved. The commission should be more proactive. Each project should be considered; not just rubber stamped.
 - Tom mentioned that this concept of right of first refusal was being considered. Peter said that there should be a certain size to trigger it. Town would come to this commission for advice on acquiring properties. Effort to adapt a conservation subdivision as the only subdivision.
 - The committee should discuss this issue further and write up a formal recommendation. Mike mentioned that this was already in the ordinance- to make recommendation for properties.
 - Paul stressed the need for a comprehensive view NOW – too many 1000 small cuts- unsustainable model. We need to think of the whole picture. Overall sense of urgency. Conservation areas should be considered – what are the "ideal" properties.
 - Sam – suggested making an ad-hoc committee to flush this issue. Identify which properties are ideal and establish criteria. Members (all subcommittees) should let Sam know interest on being on the ad-hoc committee.

- It was suggested that maybe we are reviewing project incorrectly. We react to projects. We should map out what we consider ideal properties and “be ready” when they come on the market. Need to inventory why property is valued (forest, habitat, vista, connectivity) and give recommendation to council in a conservation standpoint.
- Peter mentioned need to guide growth to West Cumberland and Rt. 1 corridor. Need a build-out plan.
- Ellen mentioned that the Town, via the Trails Subcommittee, should look into acquiring an easement on the connector from the Farwell property to the middle school. A path currently exists and use is permitted by the owner’s permission. The property is currently a rental property. Also mentioned that it would be nice to have a cut-through or a way to bypass the top portion of Greely Road between Val Halla Rd and Doughty Rd, through Val Halla. Val Hall is only open to walkers December 1st-April 1st. There are no shoulders on Greely Rd so it is very difficult for bikers or walkers to get from the center of town to Twin Brooks from Greely Rd. Greely Rd is also a connection into Yarmouth and their trail network. Paul took note of this and will look into these issues.
- Greely Woods – easement up for review.
- Range Rd easements (both sides) – Easements written, submitted to homeowners. Falmouth will begin trail in the spring
- Rines Property – trail to forest – Paul and Dale Rines will walk property in spring (when snow melts).
- Fred Kinney property (by golf course) – granted permission in a handshake agreement – not real easement. Need to layout and construct trail and sign it.
- Paul mentioned idea of adapt a trail (stewards) – keep an eye on trail condition.
- Ellen questioned what signs will be used. Paul will send around logos – for the Town of Cumberland trail logo and a logo for Cumberland Trail network. Mentioned that it would be nice to have distances to major intersections or other trail connectors on signs.
- Question of what is allowed in an easement? Idea of connecting neighborhoods and what “private” connectors exists (how to get this info).
- **Next meeting May 3rd 7:30 pm**