

Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission

(Oversight Committee)

Date: August 15, 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(abs) ^(T) John Jensenius (abs)

Mike Schwindt ^(F) Tim Nastro (abs) ^(T) Shawn McBrearty

*Sam York ^(F) Sally Stockwell(abs) ^(T) Paul Weiss (abs)

David Young ^(F) Judith Wohl - resigned

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting August 2, 2017

- June minutes were approved – with correction of a few minor typos.
- Possibility of extending meeting to 9:00pm if necessary. No vote.
- Bill report:
 - Coming up sketch plan review of two subdivisions off Blanchard Rd. Idea of using conservation subdivision.
 - Town Council: Vote to authorize the Town Manager to seek proposals for development of the Town owned property adjacent to the Town Forest.
 - Town Council: Vote to set a public hearing date of August 28th to consider and act on authorizing the Town Manager to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of 19.6 acres of land around Knight's Pond. Town will own outright – Land Trust possible stewards.
- Trail Subcommittee (Shawn)
 - Paul sent around information in an email presenting a proposal of Falmouth purchasing a piece of land that is critical to the Cross Cumberland Trail. Paul mentioned that the Falmouth ombudsman for trails would like our endorsement on this matter. Bill mentioned that the town was in favor of this. Sam will send out draft letter reflecting our support.
 - Easement on property (Rines Forest) – no update.
 - Need to discuss issue of trail stewards.
 - Rines Forest – trail work was done; still more to do. Borders were marked with Cross Cumberland trail signs.
 - Cut-through trail from Farwell Ave to Middle School. No update.
 - Mention of Joe Jordan on Applecrest Dr. (Yarmouth) property will be up for sale soon. Importance?

- Forest Subcommittee
 - Prior to regular meeting, committee did a walk of the Town Forest with Jeremy Stultz from IFM to discuss terminology and general strategy. Plan for subcommittee to come up with some guiding principles and goals for each of the forested properties in town. These will be discussed at September meeting.
 - July presentation by Forest Bell discussing invasive species in the forest, and next steps will be pushed back since no Land's Committee meeting in July. Bill will take care of the organizational piece.

- Oversight committee
 - Town public works relocation still in transit. Sam gave Bill a list of alternative sites. PW slated to move to the acquired NELMA (Northeastern Lumber Manufacturing Association) property on hold. Landfill needs to be capped and salt shed moved; school bussing and garage should be in same location. (no update at meeting)
 - Sam plans to hold a meeting (time/date TBD) with ad hoc committee members to discuss properties in town that are worth acquiring. Need to categorize properties for their importance; determine selection parameters such as location/proximity to other properties, vistas, trails, size etc. Committee members: Ted, Paul, John, David, and Sam.
 - Butterfly garden – (Mike and Ellen (occasional guest appearances of Dave and Sam)). First round of garden complete. Weeding seems to be a continual process as is mulching. PW delivered more compost. Town marked (flags and stakes), edge of culvert. To-do (other than weeding) – apply for Backyard Habitat certification; possibly acquire a bench; put up bird houses (Tom will see if he can find any constructors) – not sure how to put the actual houses up yet; possibly get a bat house. Also, idea of having a buffer of wildflowers from the field (don't mow a section of the field). Discussed possibility of Senior/affordable housing and PW being located nearby. Brought up issue of vernal pool. Establish access to pool?
 - Nature Trail – (Mike and Ellen) Had bit of a setback due to erratic chipping/shredding of “downed” branches. Mike and Ellen re-GPS'ed the location of possible specimens. Now need to enter all points into ArcGIS – what we currently have as an archived version; then decide what to keep as far as duplicates go. Will need to map out “final” decisions.
 - Kiosk – the new map and verbiage are being printed. Hopefully the existing signboard will be cleaned up. The kiosk roof still needs some repair. Maybe Tom knows someone...
 - Bill, Mike, and Ellen discussed where additional location signs should go (arrows with destinations and distances) such as: entering the Town Forest in the reverse direction (heading towards the ball fields), or starting at the Village Green, or use the Storyboard cut-through. Bill will have temporary

signs placed and we will give him feedback. Also need the Cumberland Trail logo at the Village Green entrance.

- **Next meeting September 6nd 7:30 pm**