

Cumberland Lands & Conservation Commission

(Oversight Committee)

Date: September 19, 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 (abs) ^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee (abs)

Susan Nolde (abs) ^(F) Denny Gallaudet (abs) ^(T) John Jensenius

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

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

David Young

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting September 6, 2017

- August minutes were approved as written. New member Denny Gallaudet to the Forest Subcommittee.
- Bill report:
 - The Town is requesting RFQ for uses for the 32-acre parcel (field) adjacent to the Town Forest. Idea of a multi-generational neighborhood.

This topic led to a lengthy discussion of the use for this property – essentially development would take us further away from our committee’s goal of conservation of natural resources for generations (Paul). Paul said didn’t agree with the premise /justification of why the Town would want to develop this property. It was countered that some in town question when is there enough open space.

Bill suggested that this committee submit letter of recommendation of what, if anything, should be done with the property (and why). We should share our opinions with Sam (not decided yet if by email or meeting) and he will draft a letter. Town will begin discussion at September 25th meeting.

- Planning Board: Public hearing – recommendation to the Town Council to amend zoning for senior housing community (SHC) overlay district; and to amend the Official Zoning Map of the Town to include a portion of the lot at 228 Greely Rd.
- Planning Board: Site Plan Review for Higbee Notch – 8 multiplex units on Gray Rd (6.3 acres).
- Future Oct Planning Board – Terrison’s Orchard abutter. Look at conservation subdivision module. Issue of arsenic was brought up.
- 19 acres around Knights Pond was approved for purchase. Waiting on surveyor.

- Trail Subcommittee (Paul)
 - Paul still working on wording of easement – Range Rd/Hall property. Needs more clarification – issues such as ‘trail’ vs “road”. Landowner liability information requested. Paul working on an easement template to be used as a starting point on other projects. Also need one-time gift (\$250) to show consideration of an easement – not a taking.
 - Easement on properties: access to Rines Forest and Fred Kenny’s field – Want license agreement instead of an easement – easily revoked. Rebecca writing up a draft version.
 - Need to discuss issue of trail stewards.
 - Other easements/trail sections in works by Knights Pond/Greely Rd. Ext. Paul is working with Land Trust (Penny) on this.
 - Cut-through trail from Farwell Ave to Middle School. No update.
 - Mention connector Blanchard Rd (Glenview) and Greely Rd Ext (Newell Ridge Rd) connect neighborhoods.
 - Greely Woods – need a gift letter from Valery Wyman for easement. Mr. Copp never recorded release of deed to rights of property, so Ms Wyman is still the owner of record. Dave Y will approach her on this matter.
 - Greely Rd side of Twin Brooks – why are there blue marks on trees? Mentioned that the trail markers are not clear.
 - Twin Brooks – issue of rocks on trails for cross country runners. Maybe rake or use reclaimed asphalt – try at problem areas.
- Forest Subcommittee
 - There was no meeting held this month.
 - Presentation by Forest Bell educational discussion of invasive plants in the forest. Pushed back to November. Bill will take care of the organizational piece. Invite Yarmouth and Falmouth and other interested entities.
- Oversight committee
 - Talked about a tunnel under the railroad tracks to connect Twin Brooks with Godsoe property (up for sale) and Crossing Brook. Capital Improvement. Where would tunnel be located? Other towns have same issue. Where is best location since need to be able to link up other trails. Have separate meeting to discuss.
 - 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. 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. It was mentioned that snowmobilers ride through that area. Mike suggested protecting plants/trees with steel posts. Bill thought snow fencing would be a better idea.
- Nature Trail – (Mike and Ellen) Deciding on best way to organize data. Mike sent information again to Sue to see if she could come up with funding for markers. Mike also requested some more tree tags so we can number sequentially.
- Kiosk – The updated sign – map and verbiage is up!!
- 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.
- To Do: Need to update information on website – with latest map; print some out for public; update Maine Trail Finders.

- **Next meeting October 4th 7:30 pm**