

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: January 9, 2016 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++
To: CTL&CC members: Ellen Hoffman *Sam York
Peter Bingham+ (abs) Susan Nolde David Young (abs)
Ted Chadbourne Sally Pierce Paul Weiss
Tom Gruber + Mike Schwindt

From: Ellen Hoffman
Re: Meeting January 6, 2016

- The minutes from November and December were approved as written.
- Introduction of three new members: Paul Weiss (returning), Sally Pierce and Mike Schwindt as well as the lament of Brad Hilton who retired.
- Town Forest – much discussion about the Moonlite Sno-Skimmers Snowmobile club's request to allow access of snowmobiles on the Town Forest trail. Motion from our December meeting to the Town Council:

The Cumberland Lands and Conservation Commission recommends to the Town Council not to permit snowmobiles on the green portion of the trail as depicted in the 2014 Map of the Town Forest Trail except for the snowmobile crossings. The speed at the trail crossings should be at no more than 10 MPH. The town should make trail crossings safe by adding fill to the sides of the snowmobile trail at these points where necessary.

Despite our input, the Town Council voted to allow limited snowmobile usage this year with the stipulation that the club will maintain the entire trail and put up appropriate signage.

It was decided our best approach would be for Sam to ask a Councilor to reconsider their decision and allow this committee as well as the public time to present more information. There is still some question about the use of the trail between markers 7 and 3 – why do they need to stay on the trail and not exit the forest at M7?

Ted questioned if it was possible that the issue to reconsider was not dealt with until two weeks later giving us enough time to present our position for publication to the Forecaster. Bill Shane will check with the town attorney to see if this is possible (legal).

Bill Shane mentioned that he is in discussion with the DEP about the wetlands in the Town Forest where the existing snowmobile is. This becomes an issue once you improve the trail by putting down gravel and such.

Motion was made by Sue for Committee Chairman to approach a favorable councilor to request reconsideration of their approval at their last meeting of snowmobile access to the Town Forest Trails. – Vote unanimous.

This issue will be discussed Monday Jan 11, 2016 7:00.

- Town Forest:
 - The benches are in. They will be delivered to the town this week. Bill said probably will be stored until the spring so any needed gravel can be put down.
 - Joe Anderson was unable to find anyone available to spray buckthorn this fall. We need to be more on top of it for next year – get in line early. Also need to know the cost.
 - Need to discuss what to do with the newly acquired triangle of land by the RR tracks that abuts the town forest. Idea of making it into a dog park. Possible project 2016.
 - Remaining issues:
 - Talked about naming/marketing the trails by color. The map at the kiosk will need to be update with new trail names.
 - Two large info signs – Ellen sent photos of signs to all and mentioned that the only change needed was to move the unmanaged forest sign down the trail slightly and to the other side since now as you read the sign, you see stumps from newly cut trees.
 - Tree info signs. Need to identify which trees/plants we want to mark for identification. Will need to figure out format. Project for 2016. Sue suggested she might be interested in fund raising for project. Will the location of the info signs be indicated on the kiosk map? Public Works may also help with signs.
 - Placement of new benches – wait until spring. After installation, Town Council will do some sort of recognition to the Yarmouth Rotary Club.
 - Need to update Maine Trail Finders and other online sites once new trails are named and marked. Also need to update verbiage (EH).
 - Town to do:
 - Rip-rap needs to be put around culverts
 - Mulch needed on sides of trail
 - Canal needs to be dredged
 - Still some clean-up work needs to be done in cut areas
 - Update map at kiosk – reorient – change color of land fill area.
 - Maybe see if Alpha 1 is interested in giving us feedback for wheelchair or access to limited mobility individuals.
- Grant for invasive plant education, control and eradication. Sue – no update
- Rines Forest – no update
- Vernal pools – no update
- Greely Woods –no update
- Town owned properties on Range Way – link to Rock Ridge. No discussion of Open Space Use survey results.

- Ideas/ Project 2016 – need to discuss ideas next meeting.
 - Update trail guide (Bill presentation of open spaces)
 - Put digital version in Trails section of website; also want hard copy
 - Need to update – add new trails; remove Chebeague Island trails
 - GPS all trails
 - Update verbiage about trails:
 - use, poison ivy, dogs, parking, caches, and comments
 - Town Forest
 - Town needs to add mulch along trail
 - Need to finish putting up markers – mark trails by colors
 - Update the map at the kiosk and for distribution
 - Signage – managed/unmanaged areas?
 - Maine Trail Finders and other online sites need update
 - Benches – install and thank Yarmouth Rotary
 - Continued spraying/treatment of invasive species
 - Tree ID info signs
 - Another walk – spring before bugs:
 - Need to plan better – better job of advertising
 - Tree presentation to 4/5th graders Earth Day – who to contact (school) and to get trees.
 - Education – bats, brown tail moths
 - Other trails
 - Range Way (survey)
 - Greely Forest
 - Conservation development
 - Knights Pond – trails?
 - Rines Forest – trails?
- **Next meeting February 3rd 7pm**