

Cumberland Town Lands and Conservation Commission

Date: December 5, 2015 (* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Town Mgr.) Bill Shane++ (abs)
To: CTL&CC members: Tom Gruber + (late) Susan Nolde (abs)
Peter Bingham+ Brad Hilton *Sam York
Ted Chadbourne (late) Ellen Hoffman David Young (abs)

From: Ellen Hoffman
Re: Meeting December 2, 2015

- The minutes from November meeting were not discussed for approval.
- Town Forest – Seasonal request to use sections of the Town Forest (Earnest Rand) trail as a snowmobile trail. Tyler Nash and Shawn McBriarity of the Moonlite Sno-Skimmers snowmobile club attended the meeting. They presented their case of using sections of the Town Forest trail (from the salt shed down toward M11 (on red trail) around through M7 (on green trail) and exit the forest on their old trail. The major reason for this request is two-fold: 1) the existing snowmobile trail that bisects the Town Forest runs through a swampy area and needs maintenance; and 2) when the Village Green subdivision was built, their trail from the salt shed out to Route 9 was rerouted and not well groomed (contains many stumps and is not very level). [Refer to the 2014 Town Forest map for trail colors and marker numbers (M).]
- Discussion:
 - Their concerns/comments
 - They mentioned that in any scenario (use of rerouted trail or Town Forest trail) they would have to cut a new section to continue to Route 9 by the Mobile station.
 - They mentioned that the connector to Route 9 would need a sign when it enters private property (they have land owner permission to use).
 - Signage important – they will post at all intersections.
 - They mentioned that they would like to establish somewhat of a partnership with the Town and CL&CC to help maintain the Town Forest trails as well as other trails in town.
 - Mentioned that a pole needs to be removed (and change of anchor?) to get grooming equipment around (blocking entrance).
 - Our concerns /comments
 - We are not sure yet the extent of use of the new trails.
 - With the improvement of the trail, the users now include a wide variety of age groups.
 - Different needs of the trail – walkers/dog walkers, joggers, XC skiing, show shoeing, XC skiing HS. Problem with no speed limit for snowmobilers.
 - Mentioned that if they used the red trail instead of the rerouted trail, it would be further away from senior housing – noise issue. (Not everyone agreed this was an issue.)
 - It was asked if any restrictions on nighttime use (there is not). They mentioned that the majority of riding is daytime.

- Change the experience of walking the trail – noisy, safety issue especially at crossing, exhaust.
 - Mentioned that the signs they put up should use aluminum nails for safety.
 - Discussion around how to improve the intersection of the existing snowmobile trail and Town Forest trail since the Town Forest trail is higher. Talked about putting fill along sides to change isn't so abrupt – less dangerous for snowmobilers. Town should improve embankment and safety of trail.
 - Members think there should be no motorized vehicles on green trail.
- Final motion with our recommendation sent to Bill Shane (for 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.
- Town Forest:
 - Waiting on benches.
 - Sam has done some cutting around the (marked) hickory trees.
 - 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.
 - Brad will write up a game plan as far as a schedule for cutting/spraying going forward. Need to cut in the spring and spray in the fall.
 - 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 to look into for next year.
 - Remaining issues:
 - Talked about naming/marketing the trails by color. Sam mentioned that the state of Vermont uses some sort of colored plastic markers to mark their trails. 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 next year. 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.

- There are four benches being made by the Yarmouth Rotary Club. The benches will have a back and possibly have the rotary insignia branded onto the back of the bench. The kiosk will also have a note about the benches being donated by the Yarmouth Rotary Club. When they are ready to be installed, need to coordinate with Bill and Cumberland Public Works – to help transport and provide any needed fill. After benches are in place, Town Council will do some sort of recognition to the Yarmouth Rotary Club.
- Sam questioned if we need more than the four benches. Will revisit later.
- 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 – Back on the front burner – but no update
- Town owned properties on Range Way – link to Rock Ridge. Open Space Use survey results are in (roughly 20% response rate of neighbors). The results and implications were not discussed other than it was mentioned that the road needs to be improved. Town waiting to hear from Buzz Lamb's attorney.
- Ideas/ Project 2016 – need to discuss ideas next meeting. Need a clear plan for new members.
 - Town Forest – see above
 - Arbor Day and tree giveaway – (Sue and Ellen) next year
 - Cumberland Circle trail - Need to map with town's GPS
 - *Update the trail guide – online and hard copy.
 - Need to make sure submit write-up for annual report to get more exposure. (Sam)
- **Next meeting January 6th 7pm**