

TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: August 10, 2019

(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; ^(T) = trails SC; ^(F) = forest SC)

Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; George Turner + (abs)

To: Members:

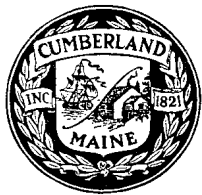
Jenn Grasso (abs)	^(F) Ted Chadbourne	^(F) Timothy Schneider	^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee
Ellen Hoffman	^(F) Melissa Cott	^(F) *Sally Stockwell	^(T) Stephen Fitzgerald
John Jensenius vice* (abs)	^(F) Denny Gallaudet ✓		^(T) Peter Garsoe ✓
Steven Knowles	^(F) Rhonda Grigg		^(T) *John Jensenius
*Mike Schwindt	^(F) Gordon Lichter		^(T) Matthew Leclair
Jennifer Taylor (abs)	^(F) Linda Putnam ✓		^(T) Shawn McBreaity
David Young			^(T) Don Stowell
Sam York			

Note: Only members of the Commission and voting members of the subcommittees need attend. “✓” indicates subcommittee member attended Commission meeting.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting August 7, 2019

- June minutes were approved as written; no meeting held in July.
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (Bill L):
 - Aug 20th planning board meeting
 - Christmas Creek Subdivision – Final review, 20-lot major subdivision; waiting on DEP approval. Issue of how storm water maintained and managed between DEP and Army Corp. Denny question on trail status. Town wants better control – Bill L will try and get an update by next meeting.
 - Bill Shane will present report on Greater Portland Council of Governments Growth Study including: student numbers, and housing trends – turnover of existing housing – not new homes.
 - Aug 21th Town Council – community meeting regarding proposed plan to relocate the sand/salt shed and brush compost facility adjacent to Town Forest. Handouts of proposed site plan distributed.
 - September Town Council meeting
 - Stump dump, storage shed relocation overview.
 - Historical society – relocation to library. Issue of siting of parking, needs planning department approval. Building is safe to move. CMP poles need to be moved as well.
 - Parking lot at Town Hall needs to be expanded as well as the food pantry. Expand west towards maintenance building.
 - Issue of LED sign ordinance approval.
 - Duplex on Rt 88 – condo 2 units, needs subdivision approval.



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- Heritage Village (Rt 1 – Falmouth/Cumberland line) – mix use. New contract zone needed to allow for additional residential units.
- October/November planning board meeting
 - OceanView Phase 2 – still working through process.
- Mike gave Bill Longley historical background on this committee's thoughts on the use of the field by the Town Forest for the compost/brush dump and sand and salt shed. He also mentioned that the proposed development was the concept of a subdivision and that 50% of the development area should be set aside for conservation under a conservation ordinance.
- Greely Woods – Easements not signed yet.
- Annual Report sent in – busy year.
- Knights Pond – signage. Majority agreed that the sign should be placed by the pond – not the road.
- Val Halla – the operation pollinator garden – not as robust as last year. The planted saplings by the rough area close to Greely Road are doing well.
- BFG – things are blooming (and the weeds are going crazy). Lots of butterfly and bees (and even a few hummingbirds) spotted. More weeding needs to be done.
- Town Forest – Nature Trail. The “marquee” sign is up, and the contents will be replaced periodically. Ongoing minor nature trail work. A kiosk has been placed at the Drowne Rd entrance to the trail. There is no map or signage in the kiosk yet.
- Trails Subcommittee (copied from John's handout):
 - **Greely Woods**
 - The Town and CCLT have continued to work to get the conservation easement in place. Both have agreed to split the cost of getting the properties surveyed (\$12,000). The survey appears to be underway. Once approved, CCLT will be conducting a fundraising campaign to cover these and other administrative costs.
 - Easements with two private landowners are on hold until the conservation easement for Greely Woods is finalized.
 - The Town and CCLT have been working on the map of trails through Greely Woods. With landowner permission, marked adjoining trails on private property will be shown. Brad has agreed to allow the blue trail passing through his property to be shown on the map.
 - Roadside trail entrance signs are available for marked trails (with landowner permission). With Brad's permission, a sign was placed at the entrance to the blue trail on Blanchard road. Brad has kept the trail cut this summer.
 - The two-log “bridge” has now been replaced by a permanent bridge thanks to members of the Trails subcommittee and the CCLT.



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- At my request, the Town dumped two yards of gravel at the entrance on Greely Road. The gravel was used to bring the ground level up to the bridge level and to fill in a few low spots along the trail.
 - There are a few damp areas on the trail that we may want to improve in the future.
 - It appears that someone opened up a trail on Brad's property that Brad had previously closed. Brad had created an alternate route (Peter mentioned this at the last RT meeting). I plan to talk with Brad about closing it again.
 - We need to create signs indicating when people leave Town-owned property and are on private property.
- **Cumberland Crossing/snowmobile trail**
 - The town has finished construction of three bridges in and near the Cumberland Crossing development which will allow snowmobiles to cross streams between the Town Forest to Val Halla. There is a very mucky area adjacent to one of the bridges. This shouldn't be a problem for snowmobiles in the winter when the ground is frozen, but currently limits pedestrian use in the other seasons.
 - **Christmas Creek**
 - The Christmas Creek Subdivision plan has been scheduled to go before the Planning Board for the past several months and was then dropped from the agenda. It is now scheduled for the August meeting. The plan includes a public easement for a trail that crosses from the development to the Wilderness trail of Twin Brook, contingent upon the Town accepting the road in the development.
 - **CCLT Waterfalls Trail**
 - Connection to Blanchard Road is still an issue. Town/CCLT may have to cut opening in guard rail and build steps to trail.
 - **Rines Forest**
 - Received positive feedback on the trails that were rerouted in Rines Forest this summer
 - Matt Warner, CCLT steward for Rines Forest, met with the Trails subcommittee to discuss possible new trails through Rines Forest. We'd like to schedule a short presentation to the Commission at the September meeting, followed in September by a walk of the proposed trails.
- **Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)**
 - Jeremy Stultz of IFM (the Town Forester) is leaving to work at Sappi. Denny mentioned the need to look for a new forester and would like some help from the Town.
 - Peter G – need to do a conservation assessment of flora and fauna of the Town, basically an inventory of such things as migratory routes, deer yards etc. to establish a baseline of what there is to conserve. Need a better understanding of what we are trying to do. Denny mentioned that the forest management plan of each of the Town's forests has baseline information. Mike offered to meet with Peter offline to discuss.



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- Knights Pond - Council had previously approved cost of inventory of Knights Pond. Need to hire someone to do the timber inventory. Also need to know status of North Yarmouth paying their portion of the cost.
- Rines Forest – review of recommendations from Nancy Olmstead on how best to control glossy buckthorn in the forest.
- Discussion of the Town’s forests, climate change, and carbon storage.
- Invasive species (Sam)
 - Knotweed – Need to establish the test plots varying the pH of the soil. Emma Fitzpatrick’s research demonstrated that varying the soil pH made it difficult for knotweed to thrive.
 - Need clarification on the three test plots in the Town Forest.
 - Sam took before and after photos from the roadside spraying of knotweed; need to assess how successful. Right now the sprayed knotweed is dying back to about 10’ from road.
- Land ID (Dave) – Question as to whether this should be under Town control. Is this complete?
- Land Use Survey (Dave) – when to send?
- New Business - no new business discussed
- Next meeting September 4th, 7:30.