



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: November 8, 2019

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

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

To: Members:

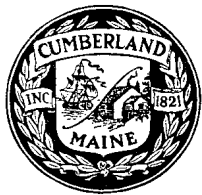
Jenn Grasso	^(F) Ted Chadbourne	^(F) Timothy Schneider	^(T) Rachael Becker McEntee
Ellen Hoffman	^(F) Melissa Cott	^(F) *Sally Stockwell	^(T) Stephen Fitzgerald ✓
John Jensenius vice*	^(F) Denny Gallaudet ✓		^(T) Peter Garsoe
Steven Knowles	^(F) Rhonda Grigg		^(T) *John Jensenius ✓
*Mike Schwindt	^(F)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

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 November 6, 2019

- October minutes were approved as written.
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (Bill L):
 - Public hearing to amend the Sign Ordinance to permit Electronic Messaging Signs in the proposed Institutional Use Overlay District. (**Nov 19th Planning Board**)
 - We agreed to a meeting to discuss spraying on invasive species. If Town interested, would need to get on contractor's schedule by 1st of the year. Sam has list of properties that were sprayed two years ago (no spraying last year).
 - OceanView I (Tuttle Rd) – 11 permits/52 units have been issued. Still some issues with snowmobile trail. John will attend meeting this week with developer.
 - Christmas Creek – only one permit/20 lots issued.
 - Orchard Rd subdivision – no permits issued yet, still getting rough grade road in.
 - Town sand, salt and compost facility got DEP approval. Process has been fast tracked to get done by December 31 when current facility needs to be closed. It was noted that there are a dozen or so pine trees placed (not planted) in the field by the Town Forest. **Nov 11 Town Council** – to award the bid for construction of a new compost pad and salt shed area.
 - OceanView II (Greely Rd) – Still has not been scheduled at Planning Board.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Property at the corner of Tuttle Rd and Foreside Rd (known as the Peony Farm) has been sold and bought by the White Pines Church. 20 acres with several houses on property.
 - Cumberland Historic Society building will not be moved until sometime in December; subcontractor issue.
 - Friends School on Rt. 1 – expansion; construction started. There are some trails on property that connect with True Springs. John will look into this.
 - Public Hearing – property at 174 Main St to allow a change in use from a non-conforming convenience store with gas sales to a non-conforming auto sales and repair shop in RR1 zone (**Nov 14 Board of Adjustment and Appeals**).
 - Handouts – two easements: Greely Rd has been signed with CCLT; Rines Forest – pending.
- Climate Action Plan (Denny – part of the Cumberland Climate Action Team): Presented history and current status of climate action initiatives within Cumberland. Considering sub-committee status for this process. Currently Cumberland is just going through the thought process. Focus on carbon emissions – state needs to get an 80% reduction by 2050. Cumberland has been going through this in bits and pieces – no committee like some of the other towns. Notes:
 - Most of Cumberland's emissions are from heating homes and travel.
 - Sources of emissions: diesel fuel, gasoline, electricity and heating.
 - Largest diesel emitters are the trucks from public works.
 - CAP can build on actions outlined in 2009 Comprehensive Plan along with other actions.
 - Consider Town Forest as a carbon sink through sequestration.
 - Outreach to citizens and households:
 - Winterize older homes
 - PassivHaus for new construction
 - Air source heat pumps
 - Carbon free electric
 - Other items (Mike):
 - Rines amendment – 51 acres to be added to existing forest. Dave made motion to endorse the amendment to the existing easement with this addition. John seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - Cumberland received the Bates Conservation Award for its efforts to protect the beautiful landscapes, natural resources and recreational opportunities in Town.
 - Casco Bay Coastal Academy Series: Focus on review of construction plans; Jenn, Gordon and Mike enrolled.
 - Benches from Yarmouth Rotary Club (purchased from a gift from the Foreside Garden Club) are being built. One will go near BFG and the other near ball field by Town Forest trail. Mike and Ellen need to mark area so bed for benches can be made before delivery.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Land Use spreadsheet – A lady from Vermont read about our Land Use spreadsheet in the Town’s Annual Report and requested a copy which Mike forwarded to her.
- Plans for the future – need to hold a workshop to discuss long term impact; how this committee sees Cumberland in 100 years. Need to layout ideas for resources, bike paths, community gardens, and trails. What will the Town look like? Forest management, habitat areas. Make Main St. more interesting – “boulevard”. Need to plan to get results.
- Grant Ideas (Jenn): Jenn has been doing research into grants and had handout describing grant information of Project Canopy. Need ideas where we could benefit with a funded project from conservation and/or a community building grant from MaineCF (Maine Community Foundation). Notes from Jennifer’s email 10/17/19 to all interested parties:

I've been looking into some possible grant opportunities for LCC to take advantage of and I think a great place to start is with the [Maine Community Foundation](#).

It looks like they will be increasing grants for their [Climate Change Initiative](#) in 2020:

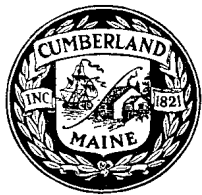
Conservation

Since the early 1990s, MaineCF has supported land trusts and conservation organizations through [the Fund for Maine Land Conservation](#). This small grant program provides project and capacity-building support for organizations engaged in land protection and related efforts around the state.

Thanks to a generous bequest from an anonymous donor, MaineCF will launch a much larger conservation grant program in 2020. Conservation strategies that address climate change and climate resilience will be prioritized within this new grant program. Organizations across Maine are putting climate change front and center, and now MaineCF will have significantly more resources to support their work. We will announce the new program in 2020. Please check back here for details.

- Town Forest/Nature Trail/BFG (Ellen): No update.
- Val Halla Projects – Mike and Ellen met with Toby to discuss planting a tree nursery of a few dozen nut trees near the driving range in the next week or so.
- Trails Subcommittee (John):
 - Greely Woods – The conservation easement with CCLT has now been signed by both parties and Greely Woods is now protected in perpetuity.
 - OceanView/snowmobile trail – The Town continues to work on outstanding issues. The Subcommittee removed the above ground roots on the Crossing Brook portion of the trail leading to Val Halla golf course. The Town has cleaned up much of the trail. Bill S and John met with the OceanView folks during October to discuss remaining issues that need to be address before winter. OceanView will contribute additional funds to this effort. Bill Shane and John will be meeting onsite with an excavator on Thursday 11/7 to go over the additional work that needs to be done. This update taken from John’s 10/15 email to concerned parties:

* The Town constructed three bridges over streams/ravines this past summer. There is still a wet area next to one of the streams and a bridge will be constructed over this area next summer. Brush and small trees have been cleared recently, and additional brush/stumps will be removed over the next few weeks. For this winter, pallets will be placed over the wet area for snowmobile access.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

* Due to concerns for snowmobiles, work will be done to improve access to two of the bridges over the next few weeks. In particular, a tree was recently cut and plans are to remove the stump and level (side-to-side) the access area. In addition, the trail accessing one of the bridges will be straightened a bit. Oceanview has agreed to fund 4-6 hours of work on this.

* The Town has cleared or cut the portions of the trail which had not been already been cleared (this was mainly on Oceanview property). Oceanview will clear brush on their property near the "field area" property line where the snowmobile trail is shown on their plans.

* The over-ground roots on the heavily-rooted, existing trail between Crossing Brook and the golf course have been removed. In addition, the planks and concrete blocks that were on the existing trail in the wet area have been moved to an alternate side path so they don't interfere with the snowmobile trail.

* Trail entrance signs have been placed at the entrances to the Crossing Brook trails near the pull-off on Crossing Brook Road and at the connection to Val Halla. Trails on the Town-owned Crossing Brook property have been marked (yellow for the snowmobile trail and green for the short access trail from Crossing Brook).

The target date for completion of work for this fall is Nov. 1.

- Christmas Creek – no update
- Trails on the Lee property (Cross Cumberland trail) – no update
- Possible projects for next year (taken from John's notes)
 - Improve connection between Rt. 9 and Range Rd through Turkey Lane.
 - Discuss and outline a plan for trail management/maintenance
 - Seasonality and closure of trails
 - Approved usages
 - Re-routing through wet areas
 - More coordination and visibility with CCLT, neighboring towns, and NEMBA
 - Planning work days
 - More members involved in homeowner relations
 - Finalize the two easements across private properties for access to Greely Woods.
 - Look into other possible connections/easements for Greely Woods.
 - Continue to work with Cumberland Crossing on trails for Phase 1 and 2 including the snowmobile trail.
 - Designate subcommittee members to monitor trails on Town-owned land.
 - GPS'ing/mapping/descriptions of all Town trails/properties
 - Develop a 100-year trail plan.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny)
 - Most of their meeting was getting the new forester (Paul Larrivee Jr) up to speed.
 - Projects for next year:
 - Complete timber inventory for Knights Pond. Land Trust has already done a "flora and fauna" inventory.
 - Update Rines Forest Management Plan to include recent additions.
 - Need to meet with Jeremy Stultz (former Town forester) to receive and review all IFM documents.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Determine next steps on buckthorn control in Rines Forest.
 - Jeff Storey involved in harvesting as part of the forest management plan in Twin Brooks. Need to make sure following same guiding principles that were adopted for other properties. Need to touch base with Jeff about harvesting in Twin Brooks.
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- Invasive species – Mike mentioned that they are slowly taking over the town. Need to take an aggressive look at where they are – map and identify – need to create an inventory. Look into using iMapInvasives.
 - Next meeting December 4, 7:30.