

# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: July 2, 2020

(\* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer; <sup>(T)</sup> = trails SC; <sup>(F)</sup> = forest SC)

Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; George Turner +

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell

Sam York

<sup>(F)</sup> Ted Chadbourne

<sup>(T)</sup> Rachael Becker McEntee

Jenn Grasso

<sup>(F)</sup> Melissa Cott

<sup>(T)</sup> Stephen Fitzgerald

Ellen Hoffman

<sup>(F)</sup> Denny Gallaudet ✓

<sup>(T)</sup> Peter Garsoe

John Jensenius <sup>vice\*</sup>

<sup>(F)</sup> Gordon Lichter

<sup>(T)</sup> \*John Jensenius ✓

Steven Knowles (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> Linda Putnam

<sup>(T)</sup> Matthew Leclair

\*Mike Schwindt

<sup>(F)</sup> Timothy Schneider

<sup>(T)</sup> Shawn McBreaity

David Young (abs)

<sup>(F)</sup> \*Sally Stockwell

<sup>(T)</sup> Don Stowell

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

From: Ellen Hoffman

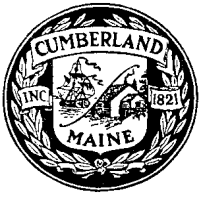
Re: Meeting July 1, 2020

- June minutes were approved as written (by Mike). This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report (summarized from Bill L's handout):
    - Town Hall is open to the public; face mask and sanitizer are required. Changes due to Covid-19 coming in the near future.
    - During the month of June 2020, 55 new building permits were issued for a variety of structures such as: pools, sheds, decks, renovations, additions, and solar installations. Bill L thinks this is a record since 2004 when he began working for the Town.
    - OceanView Phase I (Tuttle Rd) under construction; 18/20 permits have been issued.
    - Christmas Creek – under construction; two building permits issued and two others have been submitted. County records indicate a total of 18 lots have been sold and closed.
    - Orchard Rd subdivision – road under construction, one permit issued, one lot sold, and one under contract.
    - Planning Board meeting for July (subject to change):
      - OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – Preliminary Major Subdivision Review – public hearing: 52 dwelling units plus one community building.



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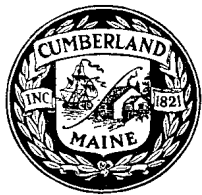
- Items to be addressed at a future Planning Board meeting :
  - Town gravel pit sold to Storey Brothers last year will be at Planning Board for annual review in June or July.
  - Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) phase #3 by Casco Systems facility proposed: 16,000 sq. ft. office building, 4,000 sq. ft. retail and 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant.
- Bill Shane is working on a draft map to show Town agricultural resources. Town staff is working to draft changes to zoning and site plan for proposed agricultural uses that make the approval process easier, quicker and less expensive.
- Town sand, salt and compost facility: Compost operation up and running with new pavement at the entrance, guardrails and some landscaping complete. Additional trees will be planted to buffer the neighbors later.
- New sidewalk work is complete along Tuttle Road.
- Conservation subdivision (approx. 13 acres) off Blanchard Road Ext will be later this year – maybe September or October.
- Wyatt lot may become a 4-5 lot subdivision. Lot is in the Town Center District and is behind the old Wyatt house and school (across from the fire station).
- Report from Town Council (Tom):
  - Council accepted recommendation from Bob Vail to proceed in soils assessment. Lot of support on the council.
  - Town should take a harder look at the number of building permits allowed per year. The current cap is 65. Usually not close to this number. Perhaps lower the cap to keep building in check. Pressure from outside communities who see Maine and Cumberland as desirable locations; good place to social distance. This committee has brought this issue up in the past. Wonder if conservation subdivisions would help?
  - Design for the new salt shed in the works.
- Trail standards (John) – The standards do not include Knights Pond which is governed by multiple entities. They have been approved and agreed upon by the Land Trust. Standards need to be brought before Town Council for approval. Denny made motion for Town Council to accept the recommendation to accept the Trail Standards. Ellen, seconded, all approved.
- Mike distributed (email) draft version of annual report. Need comments ASAP.
- Still waiting on benches for Town Forest. Also need pads in place (they have been marked out: one by BFG and one on trail near senior housing). Bill Longley will coordinate with public works. Once pads are in place, then location of benches can be added to map. Mike has been told that the Yarmouth Rotary are waiting on one of the parts to complete building the benches. Issue



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was raised by Yarmouth Rotary Club with need to periodically rebrand the back of the existing benches.

- The BFG has been weeded. Lots of bees and other creatures (despite the cars going to the brush dump).
- The Nature Trail is just about done. Judy added a new designation (shrub) that needs to be incorporated into our database. We are waiting on the salt shed so the trail can be rerouted and all maps updated before deciding how to publish info.
- Peony garden (Mike and Ellen) – Peonies starting to bloom. Plans to expand in the fall. Will return to Peony Garden off Tuttle before buildings are demolished to get more plants (“plant” at Mike’s until garden area can be expanded). Hopefully we can return to the Peony Garden off Tuttle in the fall to gather any plants that survived the destruction. Mike will inquire if the Thank You letter should be from the Town Council or the LCC.
- Trails Subcommittee - RTS (John)- summarized from his notes:
  - Nothing new to report on the following:
    - Godsoe property – rerouting of snowmobile trail planned for this summer
    - Crossing Brook – additional bridge across wet area planned for this summer
    - OceanView/Cumberland Crossing – planned trails for Phase 1
    - Christmas Creek – planned connecting trail to Twin Brook Wilderness Trail
    - Greely Woods – additional easement across private property
  - Due to recent heavy rains, trail conditions are very wet in areas that are normally dry.
  - Rines Forest – trails subcommittee would like to know the expected timetable for the planned parking area. Subcommittee also recommends a trashcan be placed near the primary entrance.
  - Waterfalls Trail off of Blanchard Rd – Town has surveyed the entrance area from Blanchard Rd to the Waterfalls Trail and is exploring options for a new connection.
  - Farwell Ave – Town has surveyed the existing pathway from Farwell Ave to MSAD51 property. John will coordinate with property owners on the next steps toward a possible easement across the property.
  - Knight’s Pond Trails – the Joint Standing Committee (JSC) on Knight’s Pond met to consider a request to widen trails due to safety concerns. The RTS submitted a statement opposing the trail widening, while acknowledging that there are similar safety concerns on many narrow trails. The JTS will continue to look into the safety issue. The Town forester recommends moving the north side of the trail farther away from the edge of the pond in places.
  - Twin Brook Trails – the trail signage is very confusing (and misleading). RTS will look into possible ways to improve signage and provide a clearer representation of the trails. A map is also needed at the kiosk leading to the Wilderness Trail. Do all kiosks need to be updated?
  - Also noted that Brad Hilton is looking to sell his property. Not sure impact on Greely Woods.



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- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny and Sally's notes)
  - The Forest subcommittee has not met recently.
  - Paul Larrivee (Town forester) has requested maps and survey data from the Town for the Godsoe and Rines II additions to the Rines Forest and Knight's Pond. The information was obtained through Chris Cabot from the Land Trust. With information in hand, Paul has begun working on the forest inventory for Knight's Pond.
  - Denny has or will reach out to the Maine Natural Areas Program and the State archeological folks to ask if there are any resources of note at any of these sites as part of the requirements for our Project Canopy grant.
  - Numerous trails in the Rines Forest and Knight's Pond took a beating during the spring from unusually high level of use. Sally would like to hold a joint meeting with the Trails Subcommittee and CCLT to discuss how to address this issue and provide ongoing stewardship. She will try and arrange that for the August or September meeting.
  - Sally would like to schedule an invasives work day for the Forest subcommittee sometime during July in lieu of another Zoom meeting.
- Climate Action Subcommittee
  - Survey (Jenn) - Group met couple of weeks ago, discussed a Town-wide survey, send out a postcard with link to survey – gauge how residents feel about Town's approach to climate action and energy usage measures. Possible 10-15 questions – 10 minutes to complete.
  - Building Codes (Denny) – State level six working groups proposal to revise state building codes with a goal 0 emissions by 2030. Plan to be finalized end of the year.
- Invasive species (Mike)
  - \$10,000 in budget for spraying. Plan a two day spray. Do experimental spraying in the Town Forest; grind down area that was cut with Brontosaurus several years ago, spray part after cutting and another part late August, to gauge best approach.
  - Spray along Rt 1, Tuttle and by Fire Station – areas hard hit by knotweed.
- Farm Land assessment (Mike)
  - Group met (via Zoom) and came up with modifications to existing Land Acquisition spreadsheet to fit the needs for assessing farm land/soils. Ellen made necessary changes and provided a working copy to Mike. Group will meet again and continue discussion.
- New business
  - Property on Blanchard Rd will be coming before the Planning Board soon. Will be first Conservation Subdivision. When does this committee need to provide input?
- Next meeting September 2, 2020, 7:30. **Note:** No meeting in August.