



# TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: October 9, 2020

(\*\* = town manager; \* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++ = Code enforcement officer; (T) = trails SC; (F) = forest SC)  
Bill Shane\*\*, Bill Longley ++; Tom Gruber +; George Turner + (abs); Allison Foster+

To: Members:

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

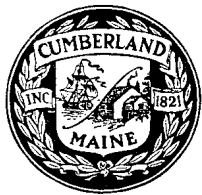
Re: Meeting October 7, 2020

- September minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Town Council (Tom) – nothing to report
- Commission (Mike)
  - Bill report (summarized from Bill L's handout):
    - Town Hall is open; face mask and sanitizer are required; more changes soon.
    - During the month of September 2020, 53 new building permits were issued for a variety of structures such as: pools, sheds, decks, renovations, additions, and solar installations.
    - OceanView Phase I (Tuttle Rd) under construction; 18/20 permits have been issued.
    - Christmas Creek – under construction; nine building permits issued. County records indicate a total of 18 lots have been sold and closed. Road paved.
    - Orchard Rd subdivision – road paved; two permit issued; one lot sold, and one under contract.
    - Planning Board meeting for October (subject to change):
      - Four lot minor commercial subdivision in VCC zone. Copp Brothers.
      - Town of Cumberland relocation of old salt storage building and snowmobile club storage shed off Greely Rd abutting Val Halla.
      - Amend Route One and Route 100 design standards to guidelines.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Future Planning Board meeting:
  - OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – 52 dwelling units plus one community building, final approval – public hearing.
  - Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) phase #3 proposed 16,000 sq. ft. office building, 4,000 sq. ft. retail and 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant (Casco Systems facility)
  - Town gravel pit sold to Storey Brothers last year will be at Planning Board for annual review in October or November.
  - Conservation subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext possibly November or December Planning Board.
- Bill Shane is working on a draft map to show Town agricultural resources. Staff is working to draft changes to zoning and site plan that will make it easier to obtain permits for many agricultural uses. Planning Board possibly November.
- Brad Hilton lot 30+ acres at 51 Blanchard Road either was sold within the past 30 days or is under contract for sale. It is currently understood that the new owners do not propose any changes now or in the near future.
- Sam questioned if schools notified when building permits issued, so that they could plan for future expansion. Bill L responded he thought not. Most permits are not for new homes and how would you separate out notifying for normal housing versus senior housing?
- Solar Ordinance (Denny) – public hearing to consider and act on adding a Residential Solar Energy System Ordinance to the Cumberland Code at Monday Oct 12th meeting.
- Red Mill Way: Cumberland Meadows – strip of land owned by the condo association, gift to Town; Public hearing to consider and act on accepting as a public road.
- Turkey Lane: Public hearing date October 12<sup>th</sup> to consider and act on the order of discontinuance as a Town way a portion of Turkey Lane from Range Road to the snowmobile bridge.
- Town Forest (Mike)
  - LCC will send a thank you letter to the Foreside Garden Club for paying for the two new benches in the Town Forest.
  - Roughly 50 peonies were planted into the new peony garden. We still have another batch that will overwinter in compost and will be planted in the spring. LCC will send a thank you letter to White Pines Church for allowing us to dig up the peonies.
  - The Nature Trail is just about done. We need to meet with Judy so we can finish laying out the Red Trail. Ellen does not have access to the offline data in order to drop waypoints locating the new trail location. We also need Judy to give us the nature trail data in a form we can manipulate and put online.



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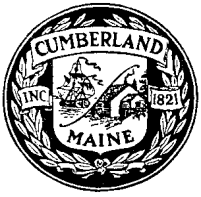
- Public Works posted a hiker sign with a Red Trail marker by the gate to the brush facility. They also moved and remounted the Vernal Pool/BFG sign closer to the road to better show the trail location.
- There has been no action on this item: The need to pave the very top portion of the driveway that leads into the Green Trail. Currently the entrance to the Green Trail from Drowne Road is by a steep grassy embankment. Just up the road (20 feet or so) there is a paved driveway that trucks use as a turnaround. There is a dirt/gravel path that leads down the hill from the driveway into the forest. This path is also rather steep and slippery. If the top steep portion were paved, it would make getting into and out of the forest from this entrance much easier. Currently there is a trail sign pointing to enter the forest down the steep embankment. This sign also needs to be moved up to point to the driveway entrance.
- Town Website (Mike) – should be used more to improve communication. Put up trail and forestry standards and information about the various subcommittees as well as the agenda. Need to meet with Judy to discuss getting the trails and trail meta data online – in one location. This would also be a good location for nature trail information. Eliza Porter can be a resource in a limited capacity as a webmaster.
- Trails Subcommittee - RTS (John) - summarized from John's notes:
  - Issue of unauthorized trail work on Cumberland Trails. All trail work needs to be approved by the Trails subcommittee and when appropriate any organizations that have authority or easements over the property. All trail work needs to conform to Cumberland's trail standards.
  - An event was held on Town-owned property by an outside organization. Approval for events must come from the Town and private property owners well in advance of these events.
  - John will write an article for the Town Crier concerning on going trail work and the importance of remaining on the marked trails.
  - John reiterated that Cumberland's trails need to be put online.
  - John has removed all the old rectangular markers from Greely Woods and the Wilderness Trail.
  - John has received a few signs from the State intended for private property owners such as: "No ATV" and "Respect Landowners – Stay on Marked Trails – Use of this Trail is a Privilege Not a Right". Let John know if you know anyone who allows public access to their trails and would like a sign.
  - Rines Forest
    - Tire ruts have been observed in Rines Forest, indicating unauthorized motor-use.
    - Trail maintenance is underway. Two walkways (48 ft. and 36 ft.) have been completed and about 500 feet of trail has been hardened with gravel. Two more walkways are planned for this fall. The Town will help removed the tilted old bridge on the trail that



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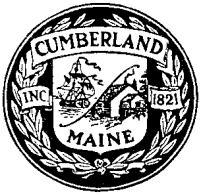
connects Rines Forest to Blanchard Road. Dave Fitz and other volunteers will construct a replacement bridge.

- The Forestry subcommittee requested that signs be put up to close unauthorized side trails near the Waterfall trail in Rines. John will contact CCLT to see if they have any signs that could be used.
- Knight's Pond
  - The Cumberland and North Yarmouth Fire Chiefs are developing a plan for responses to emergencies at Knight's Pond. The trail on the northwest side of the pond creates the greatest challenges in terms of emergency access. It was decided that the Chiefs should walk the trail with members of the Joint Standing Committee to decide on a possible alternative trail away from the pond.
  - John noted that there was a wet area along the southeast side of Knight's Pond that could benefit from a walkway. Revisit in spring.
- Farwell Ave – John has emailed documentation for the proposed easement from Farwell Avenue to the MASD51 property to the homeowners and hopes to hear back from them in the next week.
- Greely Woods – trail work has been completed for this fall. Work completed this year include: three walkways (34 ft., 20 ft. and 6 ft.) and hardened about 900 feet of trail with gravel. An easement was also obtained linking Greely Woods to Crystal Land and a 10 foot bridge was built across a drainage ditch from Crystal Lane to the easement. In addition, with landowner permission, the Yellow Trail was extended to Newell Ridge and Glenview Roads. The Town will place a "Hunting" warning sign at the entrance to Greely Woods.
- Twin Brooks
  - John and Ellen have been working on ideas for replacement of signage at Twin Brook for the kiosks and trail entrance signs. John has marked the trails at Twin Brook with colored trail markers (that will need to be coordinated with the trail colors on the maps). John and Don Stowell will meet with Peter Bingham and Ted Bosarge next week to discuss trail and kiosk signage. John will request that Ted close a previously closed portion of the Ravine Trail.
- Snowmobile club recently completed three new bridges including one that leads from the Blue Trail to the Red Trail in the Town Forest. The club requested permission to build a kiosk at the intersection of the Godsoe and Rines Forest properties which was sent to the Forestry subcommittee for a recommendation. The Forest subcommittee recommended that signage be used instead of a kiosk.
- Public Works has completed the work to re-route the snowmobile trail through the Town's Godsoe property and replace a culvert that was in need of repair.
- CCLT has submitted a proposal to obtain funding to build a trail through an easement which adjoins the Broad Cove Reserve. Mike and John wrote a letter supporting this proposal. The Town will likely want to construct a trail connecting to the CCLT's trail.



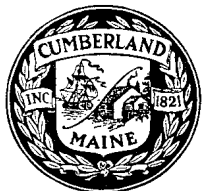
## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Crossing Brook - Minor trail work (tree trimming) needed.
- Town Forest – The portion of the Red Trail that connects the Blue Trail to the BFG through the woods is very rooty and needs gravel to improve walking conditions.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Denny and Sally's email)
  - Knight's Pond
    - Timber survey should be complete in 2-3 days. Paul will use the last day for any members interested in joining him.
    - Knight's Pond Trail reroute for public safety concerns – Towns' fire chiefs feel need for emergency vehicle access and move the trail further away from the water (see above under Trails Subcommittee). Linda noted that unless opportunities are provided for folks to see the pond from the trail, they will start making their own trail to the water. All agreed it would be important to create some access trails from the re-routed trail, perpendicular to the pond, to address this. Bill L noted that any structure built to view the pond would have to be permitted since the pond is in a Resource Protection Zone.
  - Rines Forest
    - Management Plan Update – Sally has not yet updated the plan to include the addition of the Godsoe and Waterfall properties, but has a draft of a previous plan so should be able to bring it to the committee at the November meeting for review.
    - Buckthorn – Bill Shane suggested that the same approach recently used in the Town Forest could also be tried in Rines – i.e. cut back the buckthorn to knee/thigh height this winter, and then spray the regrowth next August. Will be discussed in November meeting with LCC to determine where and how much to target for 2021.
    - Trail work – Sally still needs to connect with Steve regarding trail maintenance although work has been proceeding on areas already identified as needing maintenance. Determination on where trails need maintenance, management and determining if any trails need to be relocated, closed or limited to use by certain user groups, needs to be finalized. Sally and Gordon from the Forestry subcommittee will work with John and Steve from Trails Subcommittee and Paul (Town forester) to come up with some initial plans/recommendations.
  - Kiosk at Godsoe/Rines junction – The Committee had concerns about the appropriateness of placing a kiosk in the middle of the forest and recommended the snowmobile club consider just putting up a large map and better directional signage at the junction instead. Another option would be to place a smaller kiosk at the entrance to the Godsoe property coming in from Blanchard Rd. (See above under Trails Subcommittee.)
  - Landowner Open House – Gordon offered to review the video from the 2019 open house and create a "table of contents" and introduction to the video that could be used to introduce people to the video from the Town website and in the Cumberland Crier. Also add a note about a possible outdoor event in the spring/ summer that would build on information in the video. The video could also be shown periodically on local TV.



## TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Climate Action Subcommittee (Denny) – summarized from Denny’s email re September 24 meeting:
  - Ivy Frignoca – town resident, member of the Coastal Waters Commission and is the Casco Baykeeper, has asked to become a member of the Climate Action Subcommittee. She was appointed by the LCC Chair.
  - Postcards have been mailed to all Cumberland households advertising Climate Action survey. Survey results to date:
    - Roughly 3000 postcards mailed with 526 responses (cost \$1,700)
    - 73% said they think about climate change at last once a week
    - 82% consider themselves extremely/moderately informed on the topic
    - The most significant impacts of climate change are thought to be insect borne disease, loss of habit/species and damage to agriculture and food production.
    - The top three actions respondents have personally taken to mitigate climate change are reducing waste, buying local goods and services and reducing energy consumption.
    - The top five actions the Town of Cumberland should take are:
      - With the help of neighboring farms, develop a robust and sustainable food economy to increase the availability of local food
      - Increase the planting of trees and create wildlife habitat
      - Secure renewable energy sources for the community
      - Reduce surface and groundwater pollution
      - Increase food recovery programs to put unused food back into the community
    - The two lowest ranking actions had to do with enhancing use of electric vehicles.
  - It was noted that this ranking did not match up with actions having a high impact on reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change.
  - Team reviewed the current CAP draft and signed off on additions since last month. Suggested that team members might want to draft sections of the plan in which they have a particular interest.
  - Riva is currently studying forest carbon and thought the Town’s apparent status as a carbon sink might be an exciting focal point of the CAP.
- Invasive species (Sam)
  - Sam and Mike created a map depicting locations of purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed. Areas around town were sprayed in one day. The Town Forest was sprayed the second day.
  - The plan is to cut in the winter and spray the following August when plants are at ideal height.
  - Once the invasive plants in the Town Forest have been addressed, Mike has some native hardwood saplings to plant.
- New Business (Bill S) – The Cumberland Historical Society building at 4 Blanchard Road was moved to the library. Outside interest to purchase the 1/3 acre lot from the Town for about \$100,000. A motion



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was made to recommend sale of the .33 acres; unanimously approved. The item is scheduled for Monday night's (October 12<sup>th</sup>) Town Council meeting.

- Next meeting November 4, 2020, 7:30.