



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)

Town of Cumberland

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: November 5, 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+ (abs)

To: Members:

Jennifer Bell

Sam York

(F) Ted Chadbourne

(T) Rachael Becker McEntee

Jenn Grasso

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 (abs)

(F) Timothy Schneider

(T) Don Stowell

*Mike Schwindt

(F) *Sally Stockwell ✓

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 4, 2020

- October minutes were approved as written. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- Shawn McBreaity has resigned.
- Town Council (Tom) – Election went well. Second (behind Falmouth) number of voters at 82%.
- Commission (Mike)
 - Bill report (summarized from Bill L's notes):
 - During the month of October 2020, 33 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 - Cortland Court – two building permits issued; scheduled for November 2020 Planning Board meeting.
 - November Planning Board meeting cancelled.
 - Items to be addressed in future Planning Board meeting:
 - OceanView Phase II (Greely Rd) – 52 dwelling units plus one community building, final approval – public hearing.



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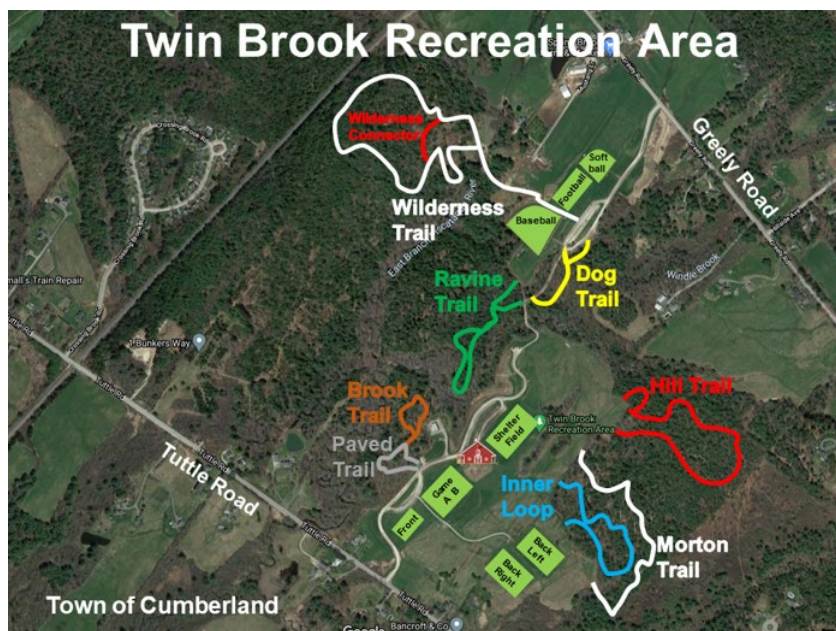
- Mill Run (off Route 100 at Faraday Drive) phase #3 proposed 16,000 sq. ft. office building, 4,000 sq. ft. retail and 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant (Casco Systems facility)
- Town gravel pit sold to Storey Brothers at Planning Board for annual review.
- Conservation subdivision off Blanchard Road Ext later this year.
- Bill Shane – OceanView Phase II approval happened quickly, but they have not completed trails for Phase I yet. Important connection. Bill suggested that the Planning Board should be reminded of this.
- Snowmobile storage shed moved to Val Halla.
- Solar ordinance was approved last meeting.
- Town selling land in North Yarmouth (off Sweester Rd). Town bought gravel pit 50 years ago to cover landfill and other projects throughout the years. Roughly 10 acres. Yarmouth Water District has expressed interest. Sell to highest bidder.
- Town Forest (Mike)
 - Mike sent a thank you letter to the Foreside Garden Club for purchasing the two new benches in the Town Forest.
 - Mike sent a thank you letter to White Pines Church for allowing us access to the peonies.
 - Mike questioned if there was any sort of agreement between the Town and the snowmobile club. Denny had some trees cut on his property.
 - Cell tower off Range Way – this is no longer an issue; Verizon is no longer interested.
 - New project with DOT (Riva) – noise abatement from I 295 on Route 1 by the Standards Building (Schooner Ridge neighborhood). Bill S, Mike and Riva will meet with DOT later in the week. Riva also plans to meet with Maine Standards about a tree planting program on the vacant lot they own along Route 1.
 - Tree City (Riva and Ellen) – what is needed for designation needs to be spelled out, and then recommend to LCC if we should pursue designation.
 - Broad Cove (Jenn G) – will attend annual walk Monday 9th with Land Trust – inspection.
 - 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.
 - 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

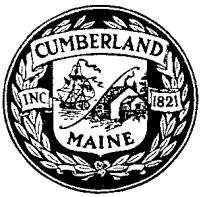


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paved driveway that trucks use as a turnaround. There is a dirt/gravel path that leads down the hill from the driveway into the forest. This path is also rather steep and slippery. If the top steep portion were paved, it would make getting into and 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.

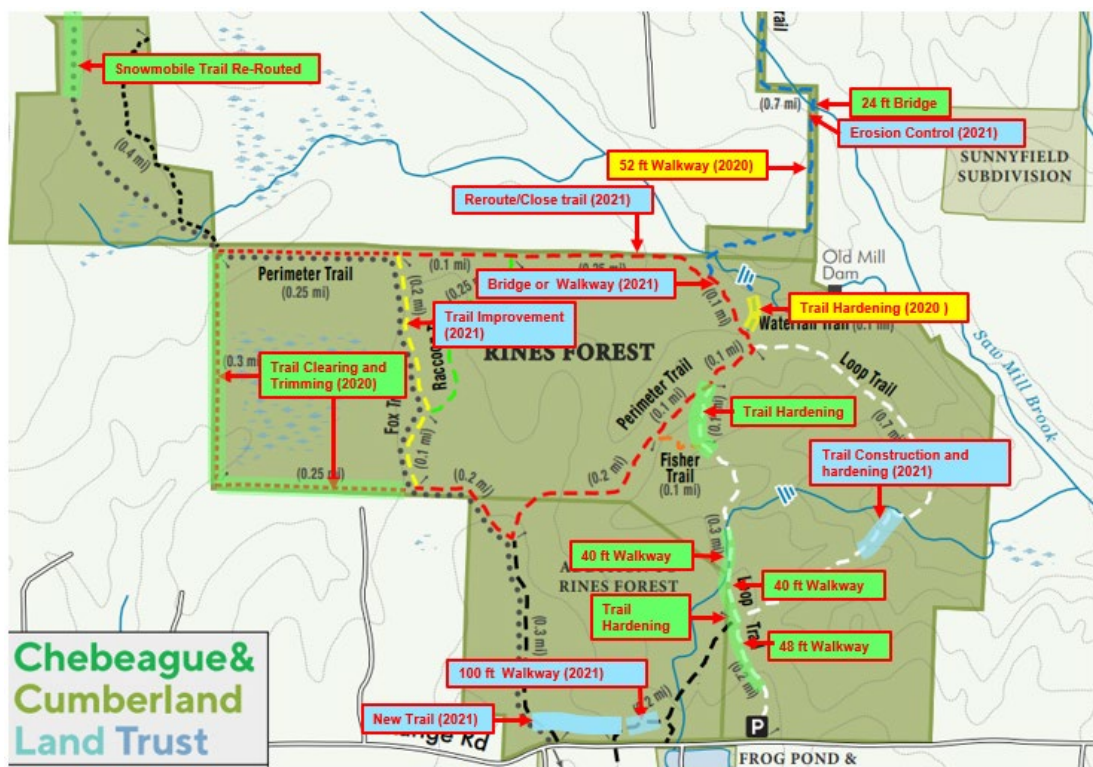
- Trails Subcommittee - RTS (John) - summarized from John's notes:
 - John wrote a short article for the Town Crier and was posted on the Town's Facebook page detailing this year's trail work. The article has received very positive feedback.
 - Farwell Avenue Easement – Final wording for the easement is being worked out between the homeowners' attorney and the Town's attorney. If the easement is approved by the Town Council, work could possibly start this year to harden the trail through the property.
 - SnowDog Grooming – John was contacted by CCLT about an offer from a homeowner to groom the trails at Knight's Pond and Greely Woods for a variety of uses. The general consensus of the Commission was the SnowDog grooming should be limited to snowmobile trails.
 - Twin Brook – Don Stowell and John met with Peter Bingham and Ted Bosarge concerning trail issues at Twin Brook. Preliminary plans to update the Twin Brook brochure to include a new map (shown below) showing the trails and playing fields on top of satellite view background. Copy of the updated map will be posted at the kiosks with a "you are here" indicator. Trail entrance signs will be replaced with signs that just show the trail name and distance. Ted will put a sign on the closed section of the Ravine Trail to discourage continued use. John has added signage and directional markers at the Greely Rd parking area to show the entrance to the Wilderness Trail.



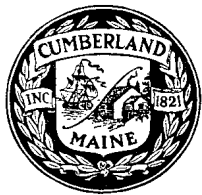


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- Rines Forest
 - The Town brought in equipment to remove the bridge on the Waterfalls Trail and then drove posts to support a new bridge. Steve Fitzgerald, David Fitz and John built a 24 ft. long bridge across the stream.
 - The Town also brought in about 8 yards of gravel for trail hardening.
 - Depending on the weather, there are plans to finish hardening some trails, build several walkways on various trails as well as clearing and trimming the “winter only” section of the Perimeter Trail.
 - The snowmobile section of the Perimeter Trail has large ruts left by an unauthorized vehicle. The snowmobile club has offered to bring in a tractor to smooth out some of the ruts. The Town and Commission appreciate the club’s efforts with this.
 - The Recreational Trails subcommittee will continue to work with the Forestry subcommittee on future plans for Rines. Planned work:



- Trail Mapping – Ellen and John will work with Judy to get the Town’s trails mapped and placed online. John suggested including QR codes on all printed maps and at the kiosk so people can pull them up on their cell phones.
- Crossing Brook - trail has been trimmed to standards.



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- Knight's Pond – no update on Fire Chiefs' efforts to develop plans for emergency response and rescue.
- Forest and Natural Resources Subcommittee (Sally)
 - Rines Forest
 - Sally hopes to have the management plan finished by their December meeting.
 - Ongoing work in Rines. Should bikers be steered toward certain trails or away from others? Should trails with heavy bike usage be extra hardened?
 - Coordinate with Falmouth and other surrounding towns about trail closures in the spring? Many neighboring towns close their trails and ours gets extra usage.
 - Knight's Pond
 - Relocate part of trail to the north-west side of Knight's Pond. Paul, Sally, and John will look at issue.
 - Timber inventory (Paul) should be done next week.
 - Paul's contract expires at the end of the year. Should this be changed to a three-year contract? Take up at December Town Council meeting.
 - Sam questioned if there was an organization representing bikers. Perhaps engage them in conservation efforts and how to protect the trails. Sally said she would reach out to the local mountain bike club – education and outreach. Help ID best trails to limit traffic. Reach out to Matt Warner who is the current steward for Rines for CCLT.
- Climate Action Subcommittee (Denny) – summarized from Denny's email re October 28th meeting:
 - Ivy Frignoca – new member, first meeting
 - The citizen survey has 685 responses = 25%.
 - Top three action items so far:
 - With the help of neighboring farms, develop a robust and sustainable food economy to increase availability of local food
 - Increase the planting of trees and create wildlife habitat
 - Secure renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric) for the community
 - Follow up:
 - Accept responses until the end of November
 - Make available printed copies on election day for those in line with a box for collection (Denny)
 - Ask Eliza Porter to make a last call on the Crier and a survey link more visible on the website (Jesse)



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- Due to the very low response rate (only 2) for those under 18, contact the High School to make students aware of the survey and encourage them to complete and submit (Denny)
- Sukie reviewed her draft action item for a tree planting program for public ways, easements and Town owned land. This effort will add to carbon sequestration, as well as co-benefits such as enhanced air quality, temperature moderation and reduction in ambient noise. (See above re: Riva and DOT noise abatement on Route One.)
- Discussion continued on the role of Forest Carbon in the CAP. Denny presented a tentative inventory of forest land in Cumberland now under conservation (roughly 3,000 acres): Town owned (1,005 acres), CCLT (360 acres), and Tree Growth (1,440 acres). The Town Forester is conducting an inventory of Knight's Pond and the Rines Forest addition that will provide an estimate of the annual level of carbon sequestration of those lands.
- Estimate that the Town and schools have reduced their CO2 emissions about 40% from the 2015 baseline through fuel switching, solar farm, efficiency investment and the like.
- It is likely that Cumberland's CAP could be unique among Maine towns. Attainment of the goal of carbon neutrality, Cumberland will be acting as a carbon reservoir for the surrounding communities. In coming months, they plan to refine this emerging concept of Cumberland as a forest carbon reservoir.
- Discussed the most recent outline of the Maine CAP. Ivy noted the focus on "blue carbon" – carbon sequestered by marine systems. Because Cumberland has a very extensive eelgrass beds in Broad Cove, so it was agreed to add blue carbon to the action items and connect with DMR and others developing blue carbon strategies.
- At Riva's suggestion, it was agreed to drop the tentative action item to require Cumberland businesses to submit annual reports of carbon emissions.
- Invasive species (Mike)
 - October 23 Mike and Paul did a species inventory around the Town Hall. Found a large assortment of both native and invasive species. Overwhelming majority of plants were invasive. The initial thrust of this is for education – point out to the Town what is in our own backyard.
 - An area was cleaned out of many invasive plants behind the Town Hall for the new food pantry shed.
- Farm Land assessment – this is on hold. Plan to work the Judy Colby-George.
- New Business (Bill S) – LCC report for the Council December meeting:
 - Request for adoption of Guiding Forestry Principles from Forestry Committee. These were presented to the Town Council back in January 2018.
 - Suggestion to change contract for Town Forester – Paul Larrivee from one year to a three year contract.



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- Recommendation on North Yarmouth Gravel Pit as required by ordinance – George to update Council Monday night (11/9/20).
 - Update to MDOT cutting along 295 and Route 1 and tree planting schedule
 - Chairman's miscellaneous items
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- Next meeting December 2, 2020, 7:30.