

# MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

**MONDAY, August 22, 2016**

## 7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** Councilors Bingham, Copp, Edes, Gruber, Stiles, Storey-King and Turner

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to accept the August 8, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

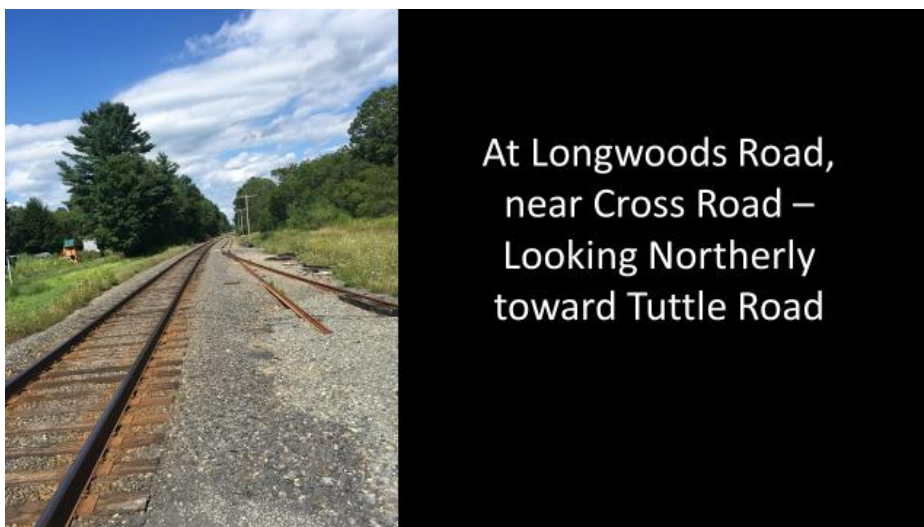
VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

### II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Deputy Town Clerk, Eliza Porter, administered the oath of office to Firefighter/Advanced EMT, Natalie Muldoon.

Town Manager Shane explained that it was discovered recently that the Rapid Renewal (vehicle registration) program had some problems. This occurred during a software switch and we are working to resolve the problem quickly.

Town Manager Shane said that when the Amtrack track was upgraded several years ago, there was a lot of steel placed beside the rails (see photo below) for about 3 miles. Amtrack and New England Passenger Rail Service is working on a plan to put in a 3 mile "passing lane" that will allow the freight trains to pull over and allow the passenger trains to go through. This is good news for us and our roads. The more freight that stays on the rails, stays off our roads. This is many tons of freight. The project will begin next summer and will take a little over a year to complete. A representative from the Maine Department of Transportation will be at a future Council meeting to make a presentation about the project.



### III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

#### IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

##### **16 – 112 To hear a report from the Cumberland Climate Action Team.**

Bob Waterhouse of Range Road said that about a year ago, he joined the Cumberland Climate Action Team, which is made up of the 4 original action team members, including Denny Gallaudet, who led the charge to create this team, Denny's daughter Jane Wilson and Eric Fitz are also members.

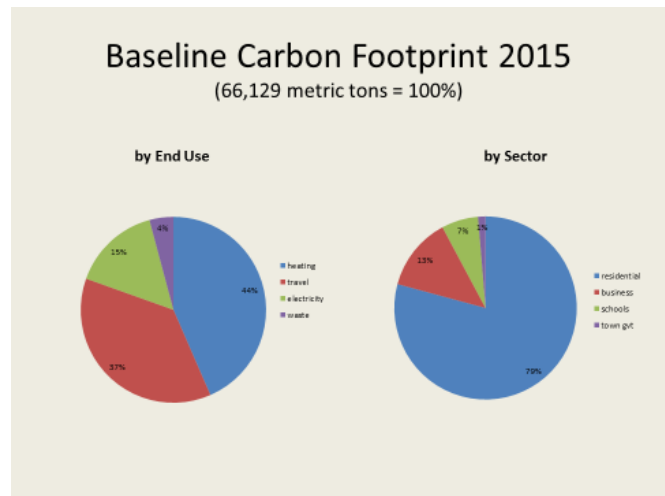

Mr. Waterhouse presented the following:

**Cumberland Climate Action Team**  
Affiliate of Sierra Club

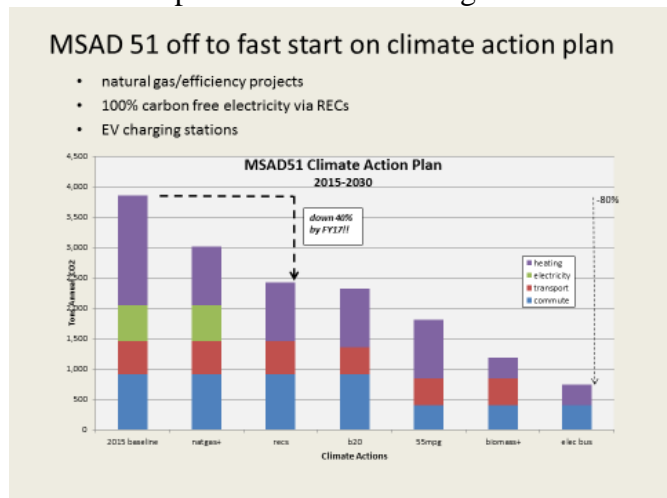
Vision: Reduce carbon footprint of Town of Cumberland by 50% by 2030, in line with Paris Climate Accord

2016 Goals:

- Estimate baseline carbon footprint for 2015
- Work with MSAD 51 to develop Climate Action Plan
- Build website to inform and engage community



Jane Wilson presented the following:



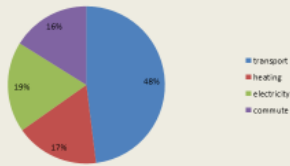
**CCAT's challenge is outreach to 2,700 residential households in Town**

- Switch to carbon free electricity
- Deploy air source heat pumps
- Winterize older homes
- Consider PassivHaus for new construction
- Phase in EV, PHEV vehicles
- Etc.

Denny Gallaudet presented the following:

Town government has small carbon footprint, mostly in transportation fuels . . .

**Town Government Carbon Footprint**  
(887 metric tons = 100%)



In fact, town-owned woodlands now act as carbon sink of up to 5,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year – creating carbon neutrality and revenue opportunity.

CCAT seeks to build on actions outlined in 2009 Comprehensive Plan – e.g.

- Explore the use of alternative energy sources for town and schools
- Consider adopting building codes to promote Leed Certified or other similar programs
- Promote the use of fuel efficient, alternative fuel, electric and/or plug-in hybrid vehicles for residents as well as town and school vehicles
- Explore ways to provide local alternative fuel stations, including electricity

Climate Actions Town Council might consider . .

- Professionally manage town-owned woodlands to maximize carbon uptake/sell carbon offsets
- Be early adapter on EV, PHEV vehicles
- Switch to carbon free electricity via RECs/community solar farm
- Provide education/outreach to 2,700 households in town

### **16 – 113 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on setting sewer user fees for FY'17.**

Town Manager Shane explained that our sewer system is part of a larger system located in Falmouth. We own 30% of the sewer treatment plant. Recently, we were part of a \$6.2 million dollar upgrade to the Mill Creek pump station in Falmouth, which pumps 100% of our wastewater through it. When the upgrade is complete, it will give us additional capacity in the future. The sewer system is completely paid for by the sewer users. The 2% increase represents approximately \$1.34 per month.

Chairman Turner opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Turner closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Edes, to authorize a 2% increase in sewer user fees for FY'17.

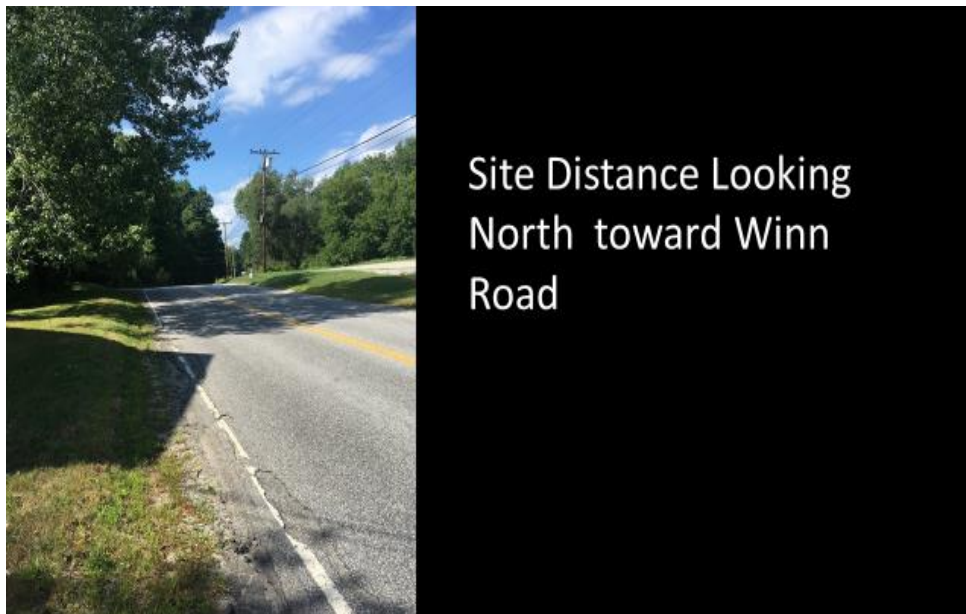
VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**16 – 114 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on approval of new road reconfiguration on Cross Road.**

Town Manager presented the following:



Site distance looking toward Falmouth. No problem here.



Site distance looking toward Winn Road. This represents approximately 265 feet of distance when you are looking left for oncoming traffic. At 35 miles per hour, the site distance should be 350 feet. This is a problem that is not related to the corner on Cross Road, but it was raised by several people who travel this area often. We will be working with DOT to rectify this problem.



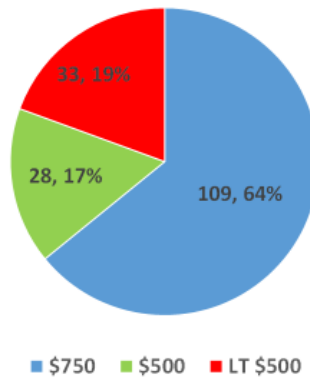
The original design of Cross Road intended to take 20-25 feet of the owners property (depicted in red on the above map) to make the corner a little sharper and easier to maneuver a vehicle around. The problem is the site distance for that property owner and getting out of their driveway because of the raised septic system on their property makes it very difficult to see over it.



The double stop sign option is not a good solution.



## \$ Rebates By % & Numbers



### Senior Property Tax Assistance Program

#### Refund Amounts

**\$750—64%: 109 residents**  
\$500-\$749—17%: 28 residents  
\$44-\$499—19%: 33 residents

#### Applicant's Income

**\$30,000 or less—39%: 65 residents**  
\$30,001-\$45,000—31%: 51 residents  
\$45,001-\$55,000—14%: 24 residents  
\$55,000—16%: 27 residents

### Senior Property Tax Assistance Program

Total Refund Amount/Total Taxes Paid=  
**(\$738,995 / \$108,769)**

**15% of taxes will be paid with refund check**

Chairman Turner opened the Public Hearing.  
Public discussion: none  
Chairman Turner closed the Public Hearing.



Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to authorize the issuance of Senior Property Tax Assistance Program payments as recommended by the Town Manager.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**16 – 116 To authorize the Town Manager to accept an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to the Food Pantry for the school supply program and to authorize the issuance of a gift letter for tax purposes.**

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to authorize the Town Manager to accept an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to the Food Pantry for the school supply program and to issue a gift letter for tax purposes.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilor Bingham** – none

**Councilor Gruber** – The Aging in Place Committee will be holding its second annual forum on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School. There will be educational sessions, health screenings, flu shots and free food. Cumberland has recently been named an age friendly community by AARP.

The Police Chief is looking for volunteers to be school crossing guards.

He is impressed with the way the Broad Cove is being managed and the new signs are a wonderful addition.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers and donates to the food pantry.

**Councilor Storey-King** – She had the distinct honor of attending the induction ceremony of 22 new members to the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame, including her brother Harland.

**Councilor Edes** – none

**Chairman Turner** – The beach at Broad Cove Reserve was closed due to heavy rain.

**Councilor Stiles** – He continues his efforts to raise money for the 4-H auction at the Cumberland Fair. The food pantry will benefit with meat products. He hoped to get \$10 from 1,000 residents of Cumberland and North Yarmouth, but is finding that we are behind in donations this year, but there is still time to donate.

He was fortunate enough to play golf over the weekend at his family's 52<sup>nd</sup> annual golf tournament. There were 48 people playing golf and another 50 who attended the after party. It was a great time and Val Halla is the perfect place to hold such an event.

**Councilor Copp** – He has an employee who belongs to the Gray/Windham Motorcycle Club. The club is collecting backpacks for kids in Cumberland County. They have collected over 250 so far and will distribute them next week. This is a great thing that they are doing.

**Town Manager Shane** – Eagle Scout, Cameron Plourde is almost done with the bridge and trail work at Knight's Pond Preserve.



Paving on most of the streets off of Main Street will begin shortly after Labor Day. Driveways will be matched in after the paving.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on an application for tax abatement based on hardship.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Bingham, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on an application for tax abatement based on hardship.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

TIME: 8:32 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 8:41 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Copp, to approve the request for a tax abatement.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to adjourn.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

TIME: 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary