

Falmouth Conservation Commission Minutes of January 7, 2008

Meeting convened at 7:09 PM

Members Present: Lissa Robinson, Chair, Caleb Hemphill, Mel Dickenson

Members Absent: Frank Ruch, Wing Goodale, Willie Audet

Liaisons: Lissa Robinson (CPAC), Caleb Hemphill (FTAC, FLT)

Staff: Gary Fogg (consultant)

Monthly Meeting Leader: Lissa Robinson

Minutes

Two amendments to the Minutes of December 11, 2007 were noted. Approval was postponed until the February meeting when a quorum of the members could be present.

Project Updates - Subcommittees

Open Space – Mel Dickenson

- The Town Council has authorized the formation of the Falmouth Conservation Corps. The Corps is conceived as a body of volunteers for hands-on conservation work within Falmouth's emerging open space system. Details concerning the management and funding of the Corps are being worked out.
- The Town Council has approved the beginning of work on the River Point property management plan. The members of the committee that will draft the proposed plan will probably be the same as the River Point working group that prepared the initial policy options on the property for Town Council review.
- The Committee has identified approximately 30-40 properties that appear to have high natural resource and open space value that should be investigated further for some measure of protection.

Invasive Species – Caleb Hemphill

Caleb Hemphill and Wing Goodale will be meeting soon to discuss potential spring and summer projects.

Vernal Pools – Caleb Hemphill

A reporter for the Westbrook Current called to ask about Falmouth's vernal pool program in order to gain perspective on the program that has just begun in Scarborough.

Planning – Lissa Robinson

- Lissa would like to organize a field trip to a vernal pool this spring for CDC and CPAC members working on natural resource issues. A better understanding of vernal pool biology could help the members of these committees formulate better town policy concerning vernal pools.
- Lissa has met with Theo Holtwick concerning FCC review of significant natural resource issues during the development review process. This issue will require additional discussion with the Planning Office and the Planning Board.

Energy Conservation – Mel Dickenson

Mel will invite Susan Howe, Chair of the Falmouth Cool Communities Committee, to the next meeting of the FCC Energy Conservation Subcommittee in order to discuss how the efforts of the

two committees can be coordinated. Mel suggests that perhaps the best way to develop a coherent program is to begin by developing an energy conservation plan with goals, objectives and implementation strategies.

Project Updates - Liaisons

Trails – Caleb Hemphill

Gary Fogg has completed his peer review of trail layout, brushing and blazing at Ridgewood Estates. Trail hardening and signage are needed to make the trail fully operational for public use.

FLT – Caleb Hemphill

The FLT is continuing its policy of increasing cooperation and shared resources with other land trusts.

New Members

The Town has received an application for FCC membership from Sean Mahoney. Lissa will ask the Council Membership Committee to act on his application soon.

Next Steps

- Wing Goodale will lead the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Submitted by Gary Fogg