

# Falmouth Conservation Commission

## Minutes of February 2, 2009

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

**Members Present:** Lissa Robinson, Caleb Hemphill, Mel Dickenson, Chris Kittredge, Frank Ruch

**Members Absent:** Sean Mahoney

**Members of the Public:** Jerry Goodall

**Special Guest:** Jamie Fitch, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Liaisons:** Lissa Robinson (LPAC), Caleb Hemphill (FTAC), Sean Mahoney (FLT)

### *Minutes*

The minutes for the meeting of January 5, 2009 ,were approved without substantial changes.

**Presentation/Discussion:** Yardscaping, Jamie Fitch

The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) is working in partnership with the Falmouth High School and the Falmouth Conservation Commission on a yardscaping outreach initiative. The need for this project was derived from the consensus of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Interlocal group consisting of 14 member communities in Cumberland County, including the Town of Falmouth. The Interlocal group found that addressing pollution from lawn care practices to be a high priority as evinced by several indicators across the period from 1995 through 2001:

- the number of lawncare companies doubled;
- the use of pesticides tripled;
- there has been an increase in the number of dwelling units.

As a result, CCSWCD has developed an outreach program to distribute flyers to attach to front door knobs similar to the method used by lawn care companies. The flyers educate homeowners about alternative yardscaping methods. A geographical area near Town Landing is the proposed area for distribution of the flyers. The Environmental Action Group at the Falmouth High School and members of the Falmouth Conservation Commission are assisting in the effort. Mel Dickenson is coordinating this work for the FCC. All FCC members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

### **Committee Updates:**

Open Space Committee is developing a management plan for the Riverpoint Parcel. The Council accepted the parcel as a conservation property.

Green Ribbon Committee is developing a climate action plan. The committee conducted a tour of two energy efficient houses in Falmouth in February.

Long Range Planning Committee (LPAC) is in the final stages of the natural resource ordinance review. Work is scheduled for completion this spring. The Comprehensive Plan is the next LPAC project.

Falmouth Land Trust is exploring land acquisitions and conservation easements.

Tidewater Conservation Foundation is planning for the construction of a learning center. Trail connectivity is also a topic for this committee.

Falmouth Trails Committee is working on markers and brochures for Community Park.

**Action Items:**

Lissa send approved minutes to Ethan.

Lissa provide contact information to Caleb for invasives event.

Lissa present Annual Report to Council.

Lissa talk with Amanda about presenting Natural Resource ordinance information to FCC.

Mel advance yardscaping project.

Caleb advance invasives project.

Sean advance night lighting project.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009. The meeting dates for the remainder of the year are as follows:

MAY 4, 2009

JUNE 1, 2009

JULY 6, 2009

AUGUST 3, 2009

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

OCTOBER 5, 2009

NOVEMBER 2, 2009

DECEMBER 7, 2009

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Lissa Robinson