

Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of January 5, 2009

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

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

Members Absent: Frank Ruch

Members of the Public: Phil Kaplan

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

Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2008 were approved without substantial changes.

Member-Sponsored Projects for 2009

Sean: Night Lighting and Light Pollution

Sean met with Skip Varney to discuss town lighting implementation and potential improvements. Sean noted observation that excess light was somewhat less of a problem than first imagined. Discussed interest in meeting with members of Falmouth Green Ribbon Energy Commission for potential collaboration.

Mel: Yardscaping

Ongoing effort appears to fulfill part of CCSWD/Town's NPDES Phase II requirements. Falmouth's website yardscaping content under Conservation Commission is relatively complete and the Commission should continue publicizing this. Discussed local effort among local landscaping businesses and consideration of inviting representative(s) to join the FCC at an upcoming meeting. Mentioned High School representative to the Green Ribbon Commission who could be yardscaping liaison to high school through teacher Gary Glick.

Caleb: Invasive Plant Species

Tentatively arranged for the FCC to have a follow-up invasive plant mitigation workshop and hands-on event at Mackworth Island. Event will be similar to one held in 2007, but will involve replanting replacement plant species as well as additional removal of unwanted invasive plants. Joe Wiley of the Bureau of Parks and Lands will contact the Commission for scheduling in April or May.

Lissa: Neighborhood Trees

Noted that Town is in process of inventorying forest resources. Discussed potential of further developing project with Open Space Subcommittee and Green Ribbon Energy Commission.

Presentation: Community Facilities Planning Project

Phil Kaplan, Architect and Falmouth Community Facilities Planning Committee representative joined the meeting to present the planned March 5, 2009 Community Outreach Event to be held at the Plummer-Motz School gymnasium.

Phil presented background on the pending availability of land and/or buildings in Falmouth and the need to have community input into the disposition and possible re-uses of these properties. Specific information is available at the Town's website: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** . Committee members were encouraged to register and participate in the community event on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

Committee Updates:

Mel: Open Space Subcommittee

Active time for Subcommittee with potential acquisitions and mitigations.

Lissa: Natural Resources Planning

Many meetings in effort to complete project

Caleb: FTAC (Trails)

Ongoing work to improve signage and trail marking at Community Park; expects implementation come warmer weather.

Next Steps:

- Mel (Yardscape), Sean (Night Lighting), Caleb (Invasives) and Lissa (Trees) will follow-up with writing a brief description of activities to implement these projects for 2009 project planning.

- The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM

Submitted by Caleb Hemphill