

Falmouth Conservation Commission Minutes of February 7, 2011

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mel Dickenson, Nancy Lightbody, Frank Ruch, and Colin Jones and
Members Absent: Art Frederiksen, Jerry Goodall
Eileen Beasley (prospective member)

Minutes from December 6, 2010 and January 4, 2011 approved.

Mel Dickenson reviewed the role and responsibility of FCC for new member (Colin Jones) and prospective member (Eileen Beasley)

A discussion of the recent Town Council vote to change the Open Space requirements of RCZO from 50% to 30% was discussed. The group noted that the reduction in open space for conservation zoning subdivisions was unfortunate and had the appearance of conflict of interest from councilman Chase who proposed the amendment. Mel Dickenson indicated that the vote appeared to be final with little potential for revision.

Letter for Shoreline residents was discussed. The group decided that both the erosion and landscaping issues were important information to be addressed in the letter. FCC members will provide specific edits to the draft letter prior to the meeting on 2-15-11. Mel will check with the Town Manager to find out the geographic area that the FCC mailing should cover, Jerry should continue his work enlisting the support of area lawn care companies, and Nancy will re-send to members the PDF version of the shoreline property flyer from the Department of Public Works. Members will meet on Tuesday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to complete work on the mailing.

Members were reminded that the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions will hold a regional meeting at Cabela's in Scarborough on February 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

Invasive Species

Nancy Lightbody summarized the current invasive species project at the Bucknam Road Fire Barn and indicated that ongoing activity at the demonstration site will pick up in the spring.

Open Space

Mel Dickenson summarized the recent Open space activity that includes the potential acquisition of the following properties:

- LMF grant for 2 properties abutting Hadlock Community Forest;
- FLT effort to protect 100+ acres in Falmouth Corners;
- Properties off Mast Rd and Winn Road;
- Lowell Farm interest; and
- E. Branch properties.

The Open Space sub-committee is also focusing on a bio-blitz for the River point property in June 2011 and is developing stewardship initiatives for current open space properties.

Planning Board Support

Mel Dickenson met with Bill Lunt to finalize the role of FCC in supporting planning Board review of natural resource issues. It was recognized that FCC input was important for development project where natural resources were involved. The town planning dept will include FCC in the review loop for these types of projects.

Action Items:

Mel will confirm with Nathan Poor the specific elements of the shorefront mailing and the specific residents identified for receiving the mailing

Nancy will circulate the shoreline property info sheet to FCC members.

Meeting on 2-15-2011 at 7PM to continue work on Shoreline resident letter.

By early March, the Conservation Commission needs to have a mailing ready to distribute to shorefront landowners. (See description above).

Next Steps

Next monthly Meeting date 3-7-2011

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Submitted by Mel Dickenson