

Falmouth Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 9, 2011

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mel Dickenson, Nancy Lightbody, Eileen Beasley, Jerry Goodall, Frank Ruch, Lori Johnson

Members Absent: Art Frederiksen, Colin Jones

Minutes:

The minutes for the meeting of April 1, 2011 were approved without changes.

Presentation/ Discussion:

The shorefront landowner mailing was mailed to residents. The website has been updated with the supplementary information. Now that the mailing is out, we need to call attention to the information; it has more application than just waterfront land. There is some crossover with what Eileen is doing with the stormwater working group and the Middle School is doing a presentation on land use and stormwater.

Recent environmental legislation had victories. There is not as much rush to respond to it, we should remain vigilant and continue local actions.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports:

Open Space

Bird group wants to build headquarters at river point with possibly a small parking area and a building with mostly open land. They would rebuild bridge and potentially solve access problem. There was discussion of it making the door open to commercial development. We would want to tie up the land somehow to have it revert to original intent if the bird group leaves.

The Woods Road community forest and dear yard will be switching management from the Woodlands to the town to promote better management. Hadlock woodlot had second harvest this year. A profit from the harvest was made of \$20,000 to \$30,000. . The trial on forest management successful, it is possible to move forward to other community forests.

Stormwater

Eileen attended the meeting last month. Engineers discussed mandates and protocols that will not be funded. There were presentations from DEP and EPA. Falmouth is not included on the list of towns with hot spots. Some towns have to clean up according to the federal mandate.

The group brought together the problem and made a plan but there is no funding, causing backlash from anti-environmental groups. Up front action is less expensive than clean up. The rules are retroactive and landowners will have to pay for cleanup.

Frank asked if there were monitoring and testing protocols for the surface water bodies, Mel answered that Falmouth is focused on pre-construction protocols. Runoff from Wal-Mart ends up in Mussel Cove. There are not currently standards for existing runoff. Yardscaping is backbone of storm water open water protection.

Action- Ask Jamie Fitch to include waterfront information on FCC website

Try to get Forecaster to publicize for us and Middle School Presentation

Invasive Species:

Now that snow is gone planning for treatments on plots 1, 2 and 3 for bittersweet eradication will proceed. It can take three years to complete. Not mowing tracts 2 and 3 but using chemical treatments, mowing only tract 1. Tract 1 has less bittersweet but it may be different once the growing season progresses. The goal is to see the final outcome of the two chemical treatments vs. mowing only.

Jerry updated on a bill to ban use of herbicides and insecticides from school grounds and athletic fields. He suggested that we coordinate with Scarborough group to educate public on how to help lawn without herbicides and insecticides.

Action: follow up on what the half-life is of "Roundup" and other herbicides etc.

Planning Board:

No conservation projects this month. David Chase has a request to build a retention pond close to buffer. Working with planning board, Colin is regularly working with planning board and attempting to initiate a process that projects concerning conservation are run through FCC

Action Items:

Eileen will follow Cumberland issues regarding the pond near Blackstrap road. It is a sand and gravel aquifer that has been illegally mined over the last couple of years. DEP violations were found and some chlorinated solvents identified. She will make sure that Falmouth concerns are addressed and will keep us informed.

Next Steps:

Next monthly meeting date 6-6-11

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm

Submitted by Lori Johnson