

Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of September 14, 2011

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Responsible for Taking Notes of the Meetings for the Next 5 Months:

October: Lori
November: Eileen
December: Colin
January: Mel
February: Jerry

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the June 6, 2011, meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- Open Space: Mel summarized what was discussed at the group's first meeting of the year. Current land acquisition activities include final details involving the land between Field and Woodville Roads along the East Branch of the Piscataqua and another property near Hadlock Forest. The group is in the process of acquiring for the Town approximately 90 acres on Mast Road in the watershed of Highland Lake. Trail building has taken place at Hadlock Forest and includes a parking lot at the trailhead. The Open Space group is currently writing 8-9 management plans for all properties that have been acquired. There has been a slight change in its philosophy in that instead of focusing solely on acquiring property, it will also work on how to manage its property and develop stewardship plans for each piece. On Friday, September 30, at 9:00 a.m. at River Point there will be a bird-banding demonstration event hosted by the Biological Diversity Institute. On Wednesday, October 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall the Open Space Committee will give a presentation to and hear feedback from six conservation professionals. The public is invited to attend and ask questions. The event will be videotaped and put on the Town Web site.
- Stormwater: Eileen reported that Falmouth is basically in good shape compared with some of its neighboring towns. The group has been focusing on salt on the town roads and has been working with a State task force. At the organic orchards and gardens at Falmouth High School there has been an increase in traffic and road salt due to the new elementary school. There will be a presentation by a law student at an upcoming meeting that will include Mark Melnicove (the Falmouth High School teacher who heads the garden project), Topper West (Director of Transportation and Maintenance for the schools), and Jonathan Earle (the Town Engineer). The meeting will brainstorm ways that

residents can mitigate the effects of road salt in their wells, in addition to putting in an extra drain.

- Invasive Species: The BEST (Bittersweet Eradication Study Tracts) project is continuing on schedule at the Bucknam Road Fire Barn. Jerry and Nancy reported that preliminary results show that so far Plot # 3 with the Ortho Max (triclopyr) treatment has the least amount of bittersweet. Within the next two weeks, a licensed applicator will apply the last herbicides for the current year: RoundUp (glyphosate) on Plot #2 and Ortho Max (triclopyr) on Plot #3. Plot #1 will be mowed for the last time this season. Photographs continue to be taken to document the study. Jerry and Nancy also noted that since the recycling bins have been removed from the area, not so many Falmouth residents are aware of the project.
- Planning Board: There was nothing to report at this time. Colin was in contact with the Board over the summer.

FCC Plans for 2011-2012

- The Open Space Committee will continue to be busy and focus on public awareness. The subcommittee is helped immensely by the energy and commitment of Bob Shafto.
- The BEST project will continue and perhaps include a report or presentation to the general public.
- The FCC may follow up on the shoreline erosion and yardscaping flier that was sent to shoreline residents last spring. Various ideas were discussed. Eileen will ask Jon Earle what he has been planning on that topic.

Action Items

- Eileen will talk with Jon Earle about possible follow-up on the shoreline erosion and yardscaping flier.
- Eileen will attend the meeting about the impact of road salt and the Falmouth gardens and report to the FCC at its next meeting.
- A licensed applicator will apply the season's last round of herbicides on the BEST project at Bucknam Road.

Next FCC meeting date: October 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Lightbody