

Falmouth Conservation Commission Minutes of November 11, 2011

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the October 3, 2011, meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- Open Space: Mel summarized the following OSIC activities:

Trail work is done for the season, with trails now extant in Hadlock Community Forest, with a parking area and kiosk. The results of the McDermott mitigation grant should be out next week. Lots of competition this year however we are hopeful for funding. Baseline assessments are done on the East Branch & Tully properties to support those acquisitions.

Ongoing efforts to finalize management/stewardship plans for all existing OS properties.

On Wednesday, October 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall the Open Space Committee had a meeting/presentation to get feedback from conservation professionals focusing on managing conservation/open space land. The public was invited to attend and ask questions. The feedback and results from the environmental professionals including the following:

- The town and land trust do share the same vision/goals for this work, with each have defined roles in the process.
- The Conservation Commission should tackle the invasive species issues on a town-wide basis.
- We agreed that wildlife don't generally need managing, except on special properties like River Point.
- We should be sure we are saving representative habitats across the habitat spectrum, not just forests.
- We agree that we should focus on acquiring and protecting farmland. We should do an inventory of what potential farmland is left in town as a first step.
- More publicity about the trails on the lesser-used properties would be a good idea.
- The management plan advice was on target, except we'll never have the capacity to do the detailed ecosystem descriptions MCHT or TNC

can do given their resources. More details in each plan is a good thing however.

- Stormwater: No report as Eileen was not at the meeting due to a previous conflict. She will update the committee at the December meeting.
- Invasive Species: The BEST (Bittersweet Eradication Study Tracts) project had the last treatment applied in September. 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. The area has been closed down for the season.
- Planning Board: There was nothing to report at this time, as no planning board issues had potential conservation issues.

Action Items

- Set a meeting for Invasive sub-committee for 11/17 or 11/18.

Next FCC meeting date: December 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Mel Dickenson