

Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of May 7, 2012

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mel Dickenson, Sarah Boudreau, Jerry Goodall, Steve DeCrosta, Nancy Lightbody

Others Attending: Karen Farber

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the March 26 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Introduction of New Member

Steve DeCrosta, recently appointed as a member of the FCC, told a little about his background and interests, as did the other people present.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space

- There will be a BioBlitz at River Point on June 29 and 30. Creature experts will be doing creature collection, identification, occurrence, and density. This information will be put into an ongoing database for the area.
- There will be an information table in the Falmouth High school gym during voting hours on June 12. FCC members are encouraged to sign up to help when the available times are sent around to us.

Stormwater

- The Town has received \$50,000 from the State for a Route One stormwater run-off study that must be completed by December 31, 2012. If possible, we want to prevent Mill Creek in Falmouth from becoming like Long Creek in South Portland. The percent of impervious surface cover is directly related to the health of a stream. If the percentage got into the mid-teens, the stream would be in serious condition, so we might need to suggest changes in the stormwater regulations before that happens. Mel will be meeting with Theo Holtwijk from the Town and engineers at Woodard & Curran to review the situation.
- Falmouth is finalizing its June permit submissions to the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group (composed of 14 municipalities in the Casco Bay watershed). The Town is in pretty good shape in that area and would incur stiff penalties from the EPA if it were not.

Invasive Species

- An overview of the current action plan was given, including the current draft of an informational flyer that will be distributed at the polls, the Library, Town Hall, garden clubs, and local garden centers. Members offered to give final suggestions on a copy that would be e-mailed.

- The BEST (Bittersweet Eradication Study Tracts) project at the Bucknam Road fire barn will be starting its third year. Later in the week, the yellow tapes will be put back, and the mechanical treatment on Tract #1 will be done.
- The idea of garden center coupons giving lower prices for native species is still under discussion, as is the best way for disposing of invasive plants at the landfill.
- It was suggested that local lawn maintenance companies be included and informed about our push to control invasive species and use native plants instead.
- Helpful information about the Galerucella purple-loosestrife-eating beetle has been received from the state insect diagnostician, the USDA, Laudholm Farm at the Wells Reserve, and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Exploration of the best system for Falmouth is continuing.

Planning Board: Ocean View will soon present a master plan for review.

Action Items

1. Mel will meet with Theo Holtwijk and Woodard & Curran to discuss the study of pollutants and impervious surface cover on Route One.
2. Colin and Mel will review Ocean View's master plan for the former elementary school area.
3. The anti-invasives flyer will be printed and available at the next FCC meeting and for Election Day.

Next regular FCC meeting date: June 4, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Lightbody