

Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes for Meeting 10.1.2012

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

7:00 The meeting was called to order by Mel. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from 9/17/12, and Steve seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Subcommittee reports:

Openspace: Mel reported that the OSIC recently met on September 27, 2012, which was not the scheduled time, and this change was not listed on the town's website. This causes confusion for anyone wishing to attend meetings, as happened on 9/27. Brought up on 9/27 were concerns regarding transparency and disclosure issues over the acquisition of the Hundred Acre Wood property, purchased to satisfy the mitigation of the Mabel Wilson easement. Also mentioned was the possibility of purchasing seventeen acres on Clapboard Island as open space. The OSIC reevaluated its own duration, as many of its goals have been met. The committee is still working to develop management plans for the properties, deciding who is responsible for implementing these, and what the process will be. Oversight of the management would be continued by the FCC, which would utilize the experience and expertise of current OSIC members.

Stormwater: Mel attended the meeting in support of the discharge permit. Dave Ladd, of the DEP, was pleased with Falmouth's progress. Mel presented the watershed data sheet with a breakdown of impervious surface information by acreage and by percentage. At almost 33% of the total acreage, the results are very high. Mel also mentioned that the quantity of water that is pushed through an outlet is as important for invertebrates and their ecosystems as the quality of the water. How to revise current development ordinances to conform to standards that reflect changes in findings will be a challenge, but it is far better to be proactive than be forced to use DEP standards (as with Long Creek.) Mel mentioned two headwater locations where the output of water can be significant. Here, bacteria can be a concern as well. The FCC will play a role in public education and awareness as the effort continues.

Invasive species: The next meeting is Oct. 3, 8:00 AM. Nancy plans to run more invasive ads which will feature honeysuckle. Mel reported that he has received positive feedback on the ads.

Planning Board: No change since last meeting.

FCC Plans for 2012-2013: We will continue with the projects that are currently ongoing.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting is on November 5 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Boudreau