

Falmouth Conservation Commission

Minutes of January 7, 2013

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mel Dickenson, Sarah Boudreau, Susan Gilpin, Jerry Goodall, and Nancy Lightbody

Members Absent: Steve DeCrosta

Review of Minutes: The minutes from the December 3, 2012 meeting were approved as drafted.

Salt Marsh Proposal: Falmouth was not awarded the salt marsh study.

Report on the Land Management Team (LMT)

Forest Management plans developed for town forests. Town Council has put plans on hold until an arborist evaluates the condition of Pine Grove Forest.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space

- Meeting scheduled for January 8 to decide the role for OSIC going forward.

Stormwater

- NPDES permit in final stages of development by EPA and DEP.
- Falmouth is working with Woodard & Curran on a study of the stormwater management in the Rt.1 area, which currently includes 33% of impervious surface cover in the Webbes Creek watershed. A meeting on December 13th presented the results of the study:
 - The stormwater collection network in the Rt. 1 area was identified and field verified;
 - Determined the percent impervious surface for the watershed;
 - Determined the system constraints as a function of stormwater volume; and
 - Identified stormwater quality as an issue for the watershed.

Invasive Species

- Meeting planned for January.

Planning Board: FCC commented on two planning board projects and sent the following comments to the Planning Department:

18 & 24 Carroll Road Stabilization Projects

The general approach looks acceptable and appropriate stat- approved BMPs are referenced. The FCC is concerned about the long term stabilization of upper portion of the slope that is proposed to be loamed and seeded. Maine erosion and sediment control BMPs (<http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/index.html>) indicate that steeper slopes (2/1 or greater) should not be stabilized with grass alone, but include a mix of shrubs to enhance the slope stabilization process. The BMPs also recommend the following:

- Create or maintain a buffer or a “no mow” area between mowed areas and the top of slope. This will slow down runoff before it flows across the slope, reducing erosion.
- Plant native plants; do not plant or encourage the growth of invasive or non-native plants.
- Maintain natural vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, ground cover —do not clear vegetation along the shoreline.

A similar project at 30-32 Carroll Road recently completed used a combination of over 270 shrubs along the approximate 340 feet of shoreline above the rip-rap. This shrub density indicates that the over 200 feet of shoreline associated with the 18 & 24 Carroll Road projects should include on the order of 150 shrubs across the upper portion of the slope to enhance soil stabilization.

Preserve at South Ridge

Review of the proposed Open Space areas and the existing trail along the northern side of the development give rise to the following comments/suggestions:

- Septic fields in Open Space - Provide specific designs to identify final land contours in the vicinity of proposed leach fields.
- Consider donating Openspace Areas E and F on east side of power line to Falmouth Land Trust (FLT). Both areas are on the east side of the power lines, and abut the adjacent to Blackstrap Preserve property currently managed by FLT.
- Keep the historic trail initiating from Skilling's property on Blackstrap Road that currently provides access to Blackstrap Preserve along Open Space A accessible through time. Consider donating openspace associated with trail in Openspace A to FLT.
- Stormwater management – Is detention pond in northeast end of property designed to infiltrate water to subsurface? Will stormwater be specifically conveyed to detention pond or will natural slopes direct runoff to the pond?

Other Business

Susan Gilpin presented a plan to publicize an exhibition of 24 photographs from the Bioblitz inventory conducted last summer at River Point Park. Susan suggested that display could be shown at the library, the schools, and the Audubon Society, and then reside at town hall. The Biodiversity Research Institute is willing to give Susan the complete inventory and the photos on disk. A discussion of the potential ways to print and mount the photos ensued, and Susan agreed to conduct some research regarding the approach and report next month.

New Member Discussion

The FCC has an opening for one more member. Nancy contacted two individuals that may have an interest in the FCC.

Action Items

1. We should all think about possible new members for the FCC and bring our ideas to next month's meeting.
2. Susan will provide a recommended approach for the Bioblitz photo display.

The next regular FCC meeting date will be on Monday, February 4, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Mel Dickenson