

Falmouth Conservation Commission  
**Minutes of September 9, 2013**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mel Dickenson, Steve DeCrosta, Susan Gilpin, Jerry Goodall, Aaron Svedlow, and Nancy Lightbody

***Review of Minutes***

The minutes from the June 3, 2013, meeting were approved as written.

***Subcommittee Discussions and Reports***

- LMT  
Mel said that this group is now called the Land Management and Acquisition Committee (LMAC). Members include Lucky D'Ascanio from the Town, Analiese Larson from the Falmouth Land Trust, ombudsman Bob Shafto, Town Manager Nathan Poore, and Town Councilor Sean Mahoney. Its primary role involves land management and potentially some open space acquisition. The Falmouth Conservation Commission (FCC) will keep in contact so that we will know what is going on. The 100-Acre Woods property is now officially part of the North Falmouth Community Forest and has been accepted by the National Park Service.
- Stormwater  
These activities are going forward for the Town. We will be looking for an implementation grant next year. There will be a Stormwater Conference held at Sable Oaks in South Portland on November 21 and 22. A Falmouth Public Works person may attend.
- Planning Board  
There was no action in August. Mel is in contact with the Board.
- Invasive Species
  - A follow-up on the coupons that were sent Town-wide showed that people did turn in coupons from the mailing but not in overwhelming numbers. Although spring is a very hectic time in the nursery business, it still seems to be the right time of year to do this kind of education. Next time we will do a large ad in the *Forecaster* rather than a mailing.
  - On September 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., subcommittee members will staff an information table at the Farmer's Market in Village Park.
  - On September 28 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Allen, Sterling & Lothrop, subcommittee members will give a workshop on *Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants*.
  - Aaron mentioned that he is taking a seminar about invasive plants at USM and will ask other course members to develop a workshop that would be appropriate for teaching about invasives to people in other towns.

- Susan mentioned that the Tidewater Conservation area needs work eliminating invasives.
- It was suggested that the Invasive Subcommittee invite Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long Range Planning, to a future FCC meeting to discuss the vegetation/landscaping plan (specifically the different species) for the improvements along Route One.
- Ad Hoc Zoning  
Aaron attended a “Meet and Greet” in August; the first real meeting will be on September 25. The group will meet monthly. There are 10-12 people, including a lawyer, a real estate professional, the Town Code Enforcement Officer, the Town Manager, and several interested townspeople. The committee is charged with thoroughly examining the structure and the language of the zoning ordinance. All policy regarding zoning goes to the Town Council, but this committee will look at all conflicting statements within the ordinance. It may also try to select a contractor who can put a more integrative and accessible zoning ordinance online.
- Clapboard Island Purchase and Easement Update  
Susan stated that the total needed to purchase half the island is \$1.6 million, with a fundraising deadline of July 1, 2014. So far, 10% has been collected. When the group has received half the desired funding, it will go public with project details. Maine Coast Heritage Trust has donated a fundraising consultant and a fundraising team to help. It would be nice to have \$300,000 from the Town. The advantages of having an easement to Clapboard Island are that it would give Town residents access to the ocean, and it is an easy spot to patrol. On October 5, Town Council members will be given a tour of the property, leaving Town Landing in boats at 10:00 a.m.

### ***FCC Plans for 2013-2014***

- All the subcommittees will continue their activities: LMAC, Stormwater, Planning Board Support, Invasives, and Ad Hoc Zoning.
- The FCC will work with the Route One Project Committee to ensure that native species are planted in that area.
- Bioblitz: Maybe in the spring it could involve Conservation Corps volunteers and engage the schools. It may take place on other properties.
- New signs may be made, such as for the Piscataquis River watershed.
- The FCC could look at the water quality of Mussel Cove. Perhaps it could come up with a sampling strategy, get baseline data, and then watch the progress. Very little has been done so far in this area.
- We need to find a new member to take the place of Mel, who will be leaving in December after 15 years on the FCC! In addition, we need to find a new chairperson.

### ***Action Items***

- On September 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., invasive subcommittee members will staff an information table at the Farmer's Market in Village Park.
- On September 28 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Allen, Sterling & Lothrop, invasive sub-committee members will give a workshop on *Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants*.
- Nancy will invite Theo Holtwijk to a future FCC meeting to discuss the landscaping plan for Route One.
- Mel will bring to the next meeting the list of people who have submitted their names to the Town as being interested in serving on the FCC.

Next FCC meeting date: October 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Steve will take the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Lightbody