



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 3, 2014

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sarah Boudreau, Steve DeCrosta, Jerry Goodall, Aaron Svedlow, and Nancy Lightbody

Additional Attendee: Rich Jordan

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the February 3, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- **LMAC**
 - Aaron reviewed the minutes from the February 10 meeting. Maybe by this spring there will be a tree growth forum to discuss what works and what doesn't and how the Town can help tree growth property owners to manage their forests.
 - There was a lengthy discussion about various dog problems that were occurring on multiple Town park and conservation properties. Better education of dog owners seemed to be very important. Maybe when the snow melts there should be a "pooper scooper" day to clean up the trails. There was a brief discussion about how the FCC might help in addressing this problem.

- **Stormwater**
 - The Interlocal Stormwater Working Group meets on the third Thursday of the month, every other month. The FCC will be sent the minutes from these meetings, which Jay Reynolds and others from Falmouth regularly attend.
 - Towns are reminded that flushing fire hydrants releases chlorine into the ecosystem, so it is important to minimize the amount released to ensure compliance with a NPDES permit.
 - On April 26, the Urban Runoff 5K race and walk will take place to raise awareness and funding for clean water. Aaron may run in this event.

- **Invasive Species**
 - Jerry, Sarah, Bob Shafto, and Nancy met with two of our partners to discuss a possible promotional ad in the Forecaster and other ideas for education activities. It was suggested that in addition to educating the public about the identification of some common invasives, the ad might include information about the need for the responsible application of herbicides and the dangers of applying too much.
 - It was suggested that the FCC look into creation of a Facebook page to promote the education of the public.



- In addition to the June workshop at Skillins and the September workshop at Winslow Farms, an invasives field trip at Falmouth Community Park on May 17 may take place.
- The discussion about the best way to manage invasives on public lands continued.
- **Planning Board**
 - Steve reported that there had been discussion of adding a sewer easement to the Tidewater Subdivision.
 - There are various ongoing amendments related to the work at OceanView.
 - Steve will send to the FCC copies of any Planning Board information that he receives and that is pertinent to our commission.
- **Ad Hoc Zoning Committee**

Steve met with Teresa Pierce from the Town Council and Amanda Stearns from the Town. A company from Texas has recently been hired to design interactive software that will be able to incorporate committee members' comments into the draft of the Town's ordinance. The committee will work on changing the language but not the content. By the end of the year, it is hoped that the updated document will be presented to the Town Council. The committee meets next in May.
- **Vernal Pools**
 - Aaron will meet with Caleb Hemphill to begin to develop a process to update the vernal pool list, classify the new vernal pools, and include the results on the "Vernal Pool" map. They will prioritize what they will do this coming spring. There are about 30 vernal pools that are on the Town's 2002 map but that have not yet been surveyed. Aaron and Caleb may concentrate on developable land or land that is likely to be developed. They will determine a basic minimum of pools to visit this year and for each of the next two years.
 - They then need to update and integrate the vernal pool map with the Town map.
- **Ad Hoc Route 100 Committee**

Both Jerry (as a representative from the Conservation Commission) and Sarah (as a resident and a member of the business community) will be on this newly appointed committee. It has not yet met.

Clapboard Island Purchase and Easement Update

Susan wrote that the Town Council voted \$200,000 towards the acquisition of Clapboard. She thanked everyone for their support, especially in the early stages.

Comprehensive Plan

At our next FCC meeting on April 7 there will be a discussion of how we can best support the goals and implementation of Falmouth's Comprehensive Plan, given input from Chris Orestis (as our liaison with the Town Council), Russ Anderson (as the chair of the Community Development Committee), Amanda Stearns (as our staff liaison), and Theo Holtwijk (as Director of Long-Range Planning). In



preparation for this meeting, members of the Conservation Commission will read certain suggested sections of the Comprehensive Plan.

Other Business/Other Ideas

- Rich Jordan, a visitor, shared a little bit about his background as an environmental scientist, specifically a wetlands scientist.
- It was decided not to change the monthly meeting date of the FCC because the monthly Planning Board meeting dates are not as consistent as previously thought.
- Jerry will continue to lead the monthly meetings, rather than rotating that responsibility.
- It was suggested that the monthly minutes be written in the same format to make it easier for FCC members to digest them and minutes-writers to create them.
- Aaron showed a poster about an upcoming sale of organic vegetable and flower seeds at Falmouth High School. The profits will benefit existing gardens at the schools. By March 7 you can pick up an order form at the High School office or download a form: <http://www.fedcoseeds.com/forms/falmouthOG.pdf>

Action Items

- In preparation for the April 7 meeting, all FCC members will try to become familiar with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
- The Invasives Subcommittee will finalize plans for a promotional ad in an upcoming Forecaster.
- The Invasives Subcommittee will finalize plans for an invasives field trip at Falmouth Community Park on May 17.
- Steve will send to the FCC copies of any Planning Board information that is pertinent to our commission.
- Aaron will meet with Caleb Hemphill and prioritize what will be done this coming spring in terms of surveying vernal pools.

Next FCC meeting date: April 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Please arrive no later than 6:50 p.m. Sarah will take the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Lightbody