



Falmouth Conservation Commission  
**Minutes of November 17, 2014**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Jerry Goodall, Steve DeCrosta, Paul Burlin, Aaron Svedlow, Sarah Boudreau, and Nancy Lightbody

**Also present:** Caleb Hemphill

***Review of Minutes***

The October 6 minutes were approved with one change, and the November 3 minutes were approved as written.

***Letter to Town Council about Harvest Plans***

After a short discussion of the draft letter that had been sent to everyone, Steve made a motion to accept the draft with a few minor changes. The motion was seconded and approved. The letter will be sent to Caleb, who will forward it to the Town Manager and the Chair of the Town Council for inclusion in the Council's agenda packet for November 24.

***Subcommittee Discussions and Reports***

- **LMAC**  
Aaron said that the next LMAC meeting was the next day, so he will report at our next meeting in January.
- **Stormwater**  
Susan will be attending an up-coming ISWG committee meeting on November 20.
- **Invasive Species**  
There was quite a bit of interest in the FCC table on Election Day, with many questions asked about the identification of invasive plants and how to get rid of them. On November 19 the Invasives Subcommittee (Jerry, Sarah, and Nancy) will hold two meetings: One will be with various Town officials and an expert from Maine Audubon to brainstorm a potential Town policy that would help get rid of invasive terrestrial plants by requiring clean, invasive-free fill. The other meeting will look into how the FCC can work with Maine Audubon toward the elimination of invasive terrestrial plants in Falmouth.
- **Planning Board**  
Aaron attended the meeting on November 4. There was a request for a pre-application sketch plan review, and public comment was invited about the proposed Hardy Road subdivision. Aaron gave a few comments from the FCC and suggested that it might be worth looking into a vernal pools assessment for the property. Currently five houses are being proposed, with two that will be moved closer to the road than previously planned.



- **Ad-Hoc Zoning**

Steve said that the next Ad-Hoc Zoning meeting would be on Thursday. This will be a kick-off meeting, in which the members will compile information from the presentations and plan next steps for the committee members. There will be a full agenda in the next few months as the consulting company works to assemble all of Falmouth's ordinances into a much more usable format.

- **Vernal Pools**

(On hold until spring.)

- **Ad Hoc Route 100 Vision Committee**

Sarah reported that there was a well-attended public forum on November 12. (There is a link on the Town's website with the minutes of the meeting.) At the forum, participants were broken up into four groups that discussed what changes people would like made to the area. Among the ideas that were brought up were no big box stores, concerns about safety at the intersection with Mountain Road, the need for wider shoulders for pedestrians and bikers, water run-off/drainage concerns, and a possible Farm-to-Table restaurant serving local food. A consultant team, Wright-Pierce and T.Y. Lin, has been hired to assist with the effort to develop a vision for the Route 100 Area from the Portland city line to the Cumberland Town line. There appeared to be a feeling that the area would remain and grow as a community across generations, including and welcoming both newcomers and older residents.

- **Liaison with the Comprehensive Plan**

Paul mentioned Theo's recent meetings with different groups about the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and the goals of the *Greening of Falmouth* in terms of the Town maintaining its rural character. There was a discussion about a possible brochure for landowners who might be interested in keeping their green space. Paul and Nancy will do some fact-finding on this topic. Another idea that came up was a possible project involving historical uses and soil types of different areas in Town. There was a short discussion about maybe having a Farm Day celebration at River Point to highlight food sustainability and food security in honor of the Town's Tercentennial in 2018.

### ***FCC Mission Statement***

Nancy had met with Amanda and showed a draft of a revised purpose and duties statement for the FCC. Our goal for examining the Towns' ordinance about the FCC is to update, simplify, and remove any overlapping of responsibilities, so we need to strike a balance among the powers and duties described in the law of the State of Maine, the strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, the duties of LMAC, and the powers and duties as we envision them. There was a brief discussion of the revisions, with a more thorough discussion to take place at our next meeting in January.



### **Action Items**

- Susan and Sarah will attend “Pollinator Health and Safety Conference,” a conference about neonicotinoids on November 20 at Sable Oaks.
- Susan will attend an ISWG meeting also on November 20.
- Nancy will send the letter from the FCC about Harvest Plans for Woods Road and Blackstrap Hill Community Forests to Caleb for forwarding to the Town Council. She will attend the Town Council meeting on November 24 in case there are any questions.
- Nancy will send to everyone a draft of the revised “purpose and duties” statement of the FCC. Everyone needs to reply only to Nancy no later than December 15 with suggestions, additions, eliminations, comments, ideas, etc.
- Aaron will reach out to Spatial Alternatives in Yarmouth to investigate the data archives for the Town.
- Paul and Nancy will begin research into possible ideas for the long-term protection of forestry, farming, and open spaces in Falmouth.

Tabled until another meeting: Idea from Aaron: <http://www.lawns2lobsters.org>

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting is Monday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Lightbody