



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of January 5, 2015

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Review of Minutes

The November 17 minutes were approved as written.

7:15 Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- **LMAC**

LMAC – Aaron went before the Town Council to get approval for timber harvesting on two town owned parcels; 1 was approved, 1 was not. The Council requested an ecological survey. Members of FCC asked if the request will be just restricted to Blackstrap Preserve or will that apply to all town lands? Falmouth Land Trust has asked for additional funds for stewardship of North Falmouth Community Forest. Request will come from LMAC, not FLT.

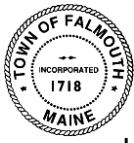
- **Stormwater**

Susan said the committee had a training for what to do when the DEP comes to audit for compliance for various reg's. Susan did not attend that meeting because it was very technical. She then mentioned coal tar, which is a banned substance for homeowners, but not banned for commercial use. There are better alternatives, such as asphalt. Coal tar is carcinogenic.

Susan also brought up water quality testing: no one knows the quality of the water in Mussel Cove re bacteria, nitrogen, phosphates, and fecal coliform. FCC members wondered if it is possible to get a grant to study the quality of that water. Steve attended the Shellfish Commission: areas for clamming can be used by commercial entities, but not for the public. Only five clamming licenses were taken out for residential use, however, 47,000 lbs of clam were harvested commercially by one company. (Spiny Creek). Susan offered to research what testing is currently being done and where. Then she will assess what further testing needs to be done.

- **Invasive Species**

The subcommittee met with the Ethan, town planner, and Bob Bittenbender, from Maine Audubon. One question raised was would it be feasible to have a town policy that included clean fill? Ethan suggested perhaps the town should not give a permit for a road unless the fill had been given a clean bill. The Subcommittee was meeting again on Wed to look into the matter further. Nancy reported that town trucks are cleaned well and do not spread many invasive plants. Discussed how we could work with Maine Audubon. Bob Shafto submitted a draft of potential policy. He also had information on a company who could do invasive



plant eradication on a town-wide basis. Susan made a suggestion about stockpiling topsoil on site as it is removed when a development is started. Right now the committee can only make a recommendation, but it is not able to require anything. Another idea is to put money into an invasive species eradication fund. (Or escrow some funds to see how the maintenance plan is being followed.) But all follow up is hard to do for staff. Volunteer board may be possible, but may require a great deal of labor. A suggested plant list may be the place to start.

- **Planning Board**

Steve reported they are meeting tomorrow night to look at the Hardy Rd plan again. Aaron spoke at one of the meetings and suggested that they move the house back on one of the lots. The new plan shows that this was accomplished. One of the recommendations is that the Town take ownership of the conservation land. This has not been determined yet. At the next meeting they will vote for the chairperson as well.

- **Ad-Hoc Zoning**

Steve reported they met on 12/16, and reviewed minutes of three previous meetings. They discussed the webpage, subscriber push. Today staff is reviewing the first leg of the UDC (United Development Code.) One highlight of last meeting is outreach, and the permitting process will be streamlined and easier to navigate.

- **Vernal Pools**

(On hold until spring.)

- **Ad Hoc Route 100 Vision Committee**

Sarah reported that the last meeting was December 17. Dave Libby has resigned from this committee, and a new member, Eydie Pryzant, was in attendance. Zoning, as well as what type/size of commercial development was desirable for the area, were topics of the discussion. Although traffic reports have been completed and distributed, the traffic discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Two more public forums have been scheduled.

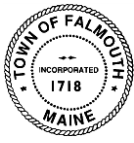
- **Liaison with the Comprehensive Plan**

Paul was absent and therefore made no report.

7:45 **FCC Mission Statement** – Nancy led discussion. Susan mentioned monitoring the quality of the water in Falmouth was important and worth including, therefore the following phrase: ‘within the town, including fresh and coastal waters,’ was added. The mission statement was approved with the small change.

8:15 **Annual Report for 2014**—Nancy led discussion, and minor changes were suggested:

- Last two bullets re stormwater upgrades should also say initiate water quality testing in Mussel Cove.
- The report should also mention updating inventory of vernal pools.



- Budget ideas were discussed, with various activities hoping to be funded, for example, a person to do the water monitoring, and other projects such as a trail camera.
- Continue to update index of all sensitive natural resources within the town per our new mission statement.
- Conduct presence/absence surveys within town for New England cottontail.

Other Business/Other Ideas

- Report from Neonicotinoids Conference – Susan and Sarah attended “Pollinator Health and Safety Conference,” a conference about neonicotinoids on November 20 at Sable Oaks. Though it was somewhat technical and geared toward workers with a pesticide applicator’s license, it was informative and interesting. Sarah presented the notes from the meeting and reported on the highlights
- Idea from Aaron: <http://www.lawns2lobsters.org>
From York implementation model, aimed at kids, a list of substances to use on your lawns.
- Possible ideas for the long-term protection of forestry, farming, and open spaces in Falmouth - Paul and Nancy are at the research stage, have networked with the FLT. They will research other organizations and information.
- January 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Falmouth Economic Development Strategy Conversation, Town Council Chambers. Nancy plans to attend.

9:00 Adjourned

Next meeting is Monday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m. ***(February meeting was cancelled due to snow.)***

Submitted by Sarah Boudreau