



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 2, 2015

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also present: Caleb Hamphill

Review of Minutes

Susan Gilpin's name should be added to January minutes.

7:15 Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- **LMAC**

LMAC – The town has approved \$400K for the purchase of the Farm on Gray Road, and Falmouth Land Trust to raise the remainder. Farm property is likely to be tenant farmed. Aaron is working with LMAC to develop a plan for Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) on town properties to evaluate the impact of timber harvesting and different types of habitat on species diversity. Paul and Caleb are interested in helping with the surveys. Sarah may be interested in helping with the habitat assessments and vegetation characterization.

There was a conversation about taxes, including removal of land from development and tax base when parcels are put into conservation, also discussion of potential taxes at the state level for conservation properties.

- **Stormwater**

Susan absent; no update available.

- **Invasive Species**

Jerry summarized a talk by an invasive species treatment company; Sarah, Caleb, and Jerry all heard the talk. The talk was focused on disturbed road side, invasive management. The company "Vegetation Control Service" is based in Massachusetts, is very environmentally sensitive, and uses minimal herbicides. The invasive management company feels that Falmouth's road side invasive issue is manageable and could be corrected. The herbicide applications are very effective and safe. Treatment will be restricted to roadside. The west of Falmouth, including Route 100, Hurricane Road, and Blackstrap for application. Jay Reynolds of public works plans to observe the applicators to potentially replicate the work. Some members of the commission feel that this might not be the best idea. Jerry and Bob had done an inventory of the invasives along the Hurricane and Blackstrap Roads.

Sarah will speak at the library on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., March 5, 2015 on invasive plants and management. Mary Cirulo will discuss lawns and run off.



- **Planning Board**

Planning Board meeting March 3, 2015: The agenda includes a number of items associated with Tidewater, which would like to develop some additional parcels. There is a request for a pre-application for a two-lot conservation subdivision on Meader Brook Drive. Discussion to be held on zoning amendment to 60 Gray Road to accommodate more parking and new store fronts. Steve can't attend the Planning Board but will likely watch on TV. Steve is establishing a regular dialogue with Ethan Croce re: Planning Board meeting and info, will receive FCC-related materials.

The timing of the Planning Board meeting and the FCC meetings are not ideal, because FCC meets the day before the Planning Board meeting. If FCC wants to change their meeting, we would need Town Council approval. If there is something pressing, or of interest to FCC, we would need to be prepared the Friday prior. We should have access to the Planning Board binder that they receive the Friday prior. Ethan should provide any FCC-relevant material to Steve the Friday they receive the Planning Board binder.

- **Ad-Hoc Zoning**

The Ad-Hoc Zoning committee met in January and saw a presentation by KKC, the new revised town ordinance website developer, of modular 1. The committee will comment on Module 1 of the revised and condensed ordinance after it is provided to the committee in April. Progress has been made, and the project is progressing. Two items were concluded: There will be no change to the overlay district, and there will be a cross walk table for the previous ordinance and the revised/condensed ordinance.

- **Vernal Pools**

In preparation for the April vernal pool surveys, Aaron will provide a list of priority properties. Aaron will seek LMAC input. Caleb and others can assist in leading some groups. North Falmouth Community forest should be surveyed, among others.

- **Ad Hoc Route 100 Vision Committee**

The Ad Hoc committee met on February 25. The committee is currently evaluating high priority projects. The committee discussed different project categories and ranked them. Projects include utilities, open space, and stormwater categories, among others. The committee also discussed funding, and prioritizing funding different projects. Expected funding total to be around \$3-4 million. The consultant on the project has done traffic modeling through 2035; the route is very congested including the turnpike intersection and the Gray Road/Falmouth Road intersection. There will be a public forum for the Route 100



Vision, likely on March 25, 2015. There may be 5-foot bike lanes on both sides of the road.

- **Liaison with the Comprehensive Plan**

There have been a few meetings, Jerry attended a public meeting. There were two committees: The CDC dealt with the “green” growth areas; the LPAC committee dealt with the “red and purple” targeted growth areas including the designated commercial and residential growth areas. Jerry also spoke with Amanda. The committees are working on refining the boundaries of the designated growth and designated rural areas. The growth cap in the designated rural area would be capped at 26 building permits per year, and total of 65 building permits per year for all districts. CDC and LPAC are charged with providing recommendations to the Town Council regarding discouraging and encouraging growth, respectively in the designated rural and designated growth areas.

Jerry asked if we should comment on this. FCC can, but it may be late in the process to comment effectively. Our role could be allaying worries as the plan is unrolled, and by assuring there is conservation (i.e., invasive management, stormwater etc.) in the designated growth areas.

Nancy will reach out to CDC and LPAC and ask them when they would like us to comment on the Comprehensive Plan and designated rural/growth areas.

Other Business/Other Ideas

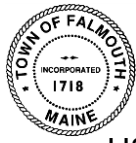
There seems to be favorable movement on the FCC’s new mission statement/revised charter for the ordinance. The new mission statement/charter was approved by the Town Council.

The FCC really appreciates Caleb Hemphill’s interest in the committee and his attendance at most of our meetings.

Paul recapped some research he and Nancy did on incentives for encouraging farming, forestry, and land conservation opportunities in Falmouth. One idea was information on the town website to educate interested members of the public on parcels that could be preserved and used for farming/forestry. Nancy indicated that a small brochure could also be provided. Paul suggested that we could reference our website on the brochure.

Idea for a more comprehensive brochure of many of the FCC’s activities and education.

FCC Media Project



USM students in the media program make videos, websites, and brochures for their capstone projects, and could do one for the FCC. Possibly MECA also. Also, possibly interest at the art program at Falmouth High School. FCC video could be posted to town website, and possibly you tube, coupled with a print out. First step would be to develop a concept for the video, pamphlet, etc. Perhaps engage Bob Shafto to provide information for the educational component.

Paul to come up with some ideas for April FCC meeting.

8:50 Adjourned

Next meeting is Monday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Aaron Svedlow