



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of September 7, 2016

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Jerry Goodall, Nancy Lightbody, Steve DeCrosta, Sarah Boudreau, Paul Burlin, Susan Gilpin

Also present: Councilor Ned Kitchel

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the June 6, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously.

Minute-takers for this year: September: Susan; October: Sarah; November: Steve; December: Paul

Town Council Work Plan and the Role of the FCC

- Encourage the use of local products at restaurants: This is the first we had heard of it. Ned will ask Karen for more details.
- Implement a program to educate property owners about non-point pollution sources: Public Works already has a good brochure on stormwater runoff. We want to promote this and make sure it includes fertilizers. We need to survey lawncare companies to find out which ones use only safe chemicals so we can list them on our website.
- Review Town's zoning ordinance to protect wetlands, evaluate significant natural resources, and amend ordinances as necessary: We need to follow up on our letter to the Town Council about this. Also, we need to find out who in the Town has a list of significant natural resources in Falmouth, including ponds, shellfish, etc., so we can protect them. Susan will ask Bob if there is a list.
- Write an ordinance to restrict pesticide applications: We are charged with writing one in collaboration with Public Works and Parks & Community Programs. One consideration is State shoreland zoning and bringing our ordinance into compliance. South Portland has a pesticide ordinance; we need details. We like the voluntary compliance approach.
- Update invasive species ordinance: We are already working on this.
- Educate citizens on dangers of invasive plants and the need for their removal: On-going.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- LMAC ()
 - No report. Need a liaison.



- **Planning Board ()**
 - Nancy is reading their reports. The Harriman property was tabled. Need a liaison.
- **Vernal Pools ()**
 - No report. Need a liaison.
- **Stormwater and Sea Level Rise (Susan)**
 - No new developments over the summer, except high tide at Town Landing covered half the parking lot. Next king tide is Nov. 15-17.
- **Invasive Species (Nancy/Sarah/Jerry)**
 - In 2015, Town-owned roadsides in West Falmouth were treated, this year those in middle Falmouth will be, and next year the Foreside will be treated. There is a well-established process now for mapping these areas and notifying adjacent residents. People with questions or concerns can call Nancy directly. Foreside residents are looking for a plant to prevent erosion along the shore once Japanese knotweed is removed.
- **Update of Website (Paul)**
 - Paul can do a video on controlling invasive species. Nancy will help him find technology expertise at the high school.
- **Ad-Hoc Zoning (Steve)**
 - No report.
- **Ad Hoc Route 1 North Committee (Paul)**
 - Paul has met twice with them; they have toured the area with Theo. The east side of Route 1 North is beautiful; the west side is barren.

Other Business/Other Ideas

- **Depot Road/Route 1 Intersection** (Susan)

Susan and Jerry met with Lucky D'Ascanio and proposed landscaping with native species. Low maintenance perennials are key. The park measures 150 feet. Jerry will follow up with Lucky about available funding. Possibilities are amelanchier, blueberries, and bayberries. Pat Lewis may be able to help us with landscaping ideas, also Ellen Klain.
- **Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition**: (Nancy/Sarah/Jerry)

Nancy, Sarah, and Jerry have all attended. Because of so many impervious surfaces, the Presumpscot is "the most threatened forested watershed in the country!" The coalition is looking for a coordinator to help town conservation commissions to make a plan. Removing the Little Falls Dam was a big step. Next steps are removing the Saccarappa Dam and upgrading the culverts. Then alewives will come, and then other fish.



- **Forest Management Plan** (Paul)

The microwave burst on June 29 snapped off many pine trees, some of which were over 100 feet tall, in Pine Grove Park; many others are leaning. Residents of Colonial Village are concerned the trees may fall on their houses. Paul walked the Park with Lucky, Nathan, and Lucas Tree; and he has talked with Caleb Hemphill, Aaron, Bob Shafto, and Nancy. All agree that the Park needs a comprehensive management plan. Paul will draft a letter from the Conservation Commission to the town asking it to develop a management plan for Pine Grove Park, and he will bring it to the meeting in October.

- **Bringing Nature Home** (Susan)

Susan pointed out that many points in the Conservation Commission work plan are included in Bringing Nature Home, and asked if the FCC would like to promote this for the tercentennial in 2018. The FCC agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting is October 5, 2016. (Sarah will take the minutes.)

Submitted by Susan Gilpin.