



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of October 5, 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 September 7, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Town Council Work Plan and the Role of the FCC

- Encourage the use of local products at restaurants: Ned has not yet been able to connect with Karen about this.
- Review Town's zoning ordinance to protect wetlands, evaluate significant natural resources, and amend ordinances as necessary: Susan asked Bob about the existence of a list, and he asked if there are any insignificant natural resources. She then wondered what is the purpose of the list and how do we categorize the existing resources. A suggestion was made to use a criteria sheet similar to what was used by the Openspace subcommittee.
- Update invasive species ordinance: Nancy is meeting with Amanda about this. Nancy also suggested that we let people know about the opening on the FCC.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- **LMAC (Paul)**
No report. Paul volunteered to be the liaison.
- **Planning Board (Nancy/Steve)**
Nancy attended the meeting. The Harriman project was approved with common open space that will be deeded to the Town of Falmouth as well as several conditions involving stormwater. The Blackstone development was also approved with special conditions. The Verizon Wireless tower proposed for the Falmouth Road property will come back to the Planning Board after more research.
- **Vernal Pools ()**
Steve wanted to know what we are charged with regarding vernal pools. We have an executive summary that Aaron sent already.
- **Stormwater and Sea Level Rise (Susan/Jerry)**
Susan distributed the water quality testing results, which are mostly well within the acceptable limits, but some days were high above the limit. It is suspected



that these days came after storms, (one being the microburst), and Susan intuited that storm runoff contributed to the sharp rises. Susan will check on the weather for the two dates, and she will also check with Jay Reynolds about any septic issues. Steve has been appointed to the Harbor/Waterfront Committee, and he will inquire if there are any overlapping interests or information that could or should be shared.

- **Invasive Species (Nancy/Sarah/Jerry)**

The middle part of Falmouth was treated (during the one week in the summer when there was some rain, and therefore all the work was not completed.) Bob Shafto has been inquiring if Lucas Tree could finish some of the work. Roadwork along parts of Middle Road was taking place, and that, too, held up the treatment program. Nancy also mentioned that some of the residents of the Foreside are very eager to eradicate their knotweed. We plan to ask the Town Council about doing a test project with several of these homeowners. Educational efforts continue, as well as trying to create language for an ordinance. We want to be sure that the ordinance language does not impact areas negatively. With subdivisions, Susan suggested that it might be better to require that the topsoil not be taken away but instead reused on the site later. A plant list with forbidden plants is being formulated. Public Works is implementing best practices by cleaning their equipment and other tasks. Jerry and Bob Shafto will map the next areas to be treated.

- **Pesticide Restriction Ordinance**

Susan reported on the pesticide ordinance in South Portland, and Portland is working on implementing one. Susan will come up with a plan to move forward. Jerry suggested that we connect with South Portland and see if they had any stumbling blocks.

- **Update of Website (Paul)**

Nancy has contacted the high school, and they are looking to find a volunteer with technology expertise.

- **Ad-Hoc Zoning (Steve)**

Steve said that the Ad Hoc Zoning committee seems to be stalled. Ned thought the work might be completed but later reported that the committee is still active.

- **Ad Hoc Route 1 North Committee (Paul)**

Committee met and talked about vision ideas. Participants expressed interest in bike and pedestrian access. There may be a public forum.

Other Business/Other Ideas

- Steve wondered if water quality issues really boil down to stormwater. Susan and Steve will work together on this issue. A suggestion was made to call the subcommittee "Water Quality/Erosion."



- A suggestion was made to change the name of the subcommittee “Vernal Pools” to “Wetlands/Vernal Pools.”
- **Depot Road/Route 1 Intersection** (Susan)
Susan presented a poster to the group with examples of native plants. Jerry will follow up with Lucky.
- **Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition**: (Nancy/Sarah/Jerry)
Nancy and Jerry attended a recent meeting. There is another meeting next week.
- **Forest Management Plan** (Paul)
Paul drafted the memo recommending a management plan for Pine Grove Park. The board for Colonial Village wrote to Nathan asking for assistance and copied Karen Farber. Paul got a copy of the deed, in which the land preserved is referred to as a park, and a management plan is not precluded in the wording of the deed. The park has conservation issues, but because of the microburst and lack of a management plan there are also safety issues. The FCC voted to send its recommendation to Nathan.
- **Bringing Nature Home** (Susan)
Susan stated 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. She has received word that the Audubon Society in Falmouth would like to partner on this theme, and it may have access to funding to help promote this for the Tercentennial. The FCC voted to proceed with this proposal.
- **FCC at the polls on November 8** (Nancy)
There was discussion about having the usual informational table at the November 8 voting, but because the table would have to be outside, the committee agreed to postpone any educational efforts to the next election.
- **Update from Troy Barry about alternatives to knotweed** (Jerry)
Jerry passed around a list of native plants for shorelines with information from Troy Barry, and he will send it around to the group.

Action Items

- Jerry will follow up with Lucky about funding for the Depot Road Park.
- Ned will ask Karen Farber for more information about the Town Council’s work plan item that mentions the use of local products at restaurants.
- Nancy will meet with Amanda about updating the invasive species ordinance.
- Nancy will ask Lisa to send the Planning Board agendas also to Steve.
- Susan will check with Jay Reynolds about septic run-off at Town Landing. She will also check the weather on the two dates when the water quality test results were the highest.



- Steve will check with the Harbor/Waterfront Committee about any overlapping topics between it and FCC's Water Quality/Erosion subcommittee.
- Susan will check with South Portland to learn more about its pesticide restriction ordinance and the names of experts who might be willing to speak with the FCC.
- Ned will send the recommended management plan for Pine Grove Park to Nathan.
- Susan will follow up with Maine Audubon about possible funding for Bringing Nature Home.
- Nancy will send to the Tercentennial Committee an idea from Steve about an enormous yard sale.
- Nancy will invite Andy Jones from the Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC) to attend the November meeting.

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

Next meeting is November 7, 2016. (Paul will take the minutes.)

Submitted by Sarah Boudreau.