



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of May 5, 2014

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Lightbody and Jerry Goodall (co-chairs), Sarah Boudreau, Aaron Svedlow, and Susan Gilpin. Paul Burlin has been approved by the Town Council.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the March 3, 2014, meeting were approved as written, and the minutes from the April 7, 2014, meeting were approved with a note that Sarah Boudreau will serve on the Ad Hoc Route 100 Committee.

Debriefing from April Meeting about the Comprehensive Plan

Regarding the April meeting with town staff and town council reps about the Comprehensive Plan, we affirmed our four basic goals, which we are already working on and plan to continue. We reviewed and refined our conclusions:

- Goal: To work toward quality open space. This includes acquisition and stewardship. It involves working with the Land Management and Acquisition Committee. It involves paying attention to agricultural land. It involves paying particular attention to the conservation and habitat value of open space, and to this end, we would like the Conservation Committee to have a representative on LMAC.
- Goal: To reduce invasive species in Falmouth. We have put info on the town website.
- Goal: To protect wetlands.
- Goal: To minimize and treat urban run-off. This includes educating citizens about non-point pollution. The Friends of Casco Bay have good info on Yardscaping on their website; we would like to put a link to this on our website.

Subcommittee Discussions and Reports

- LMAC
 - Aaron attended the April 14 meeting. He reported that Conservation Corps interns are coming again this summer, and also the Falmouth Land Trust will have summer rangers. He will recommend improvements to the Blackstrap Forest trail, a steep climb that needs a switchback.
 - Nancy will write a letter to the town council about Timber Creek, making sure that development follows the "least impact alternative." Nancy will also clarify with Amanda the role of the Conservation Commission in land acquisition. The 2013 Comprehensive Plan says that the Conservation Committee is to offer opinions to the council on the conservation value of lands up for acquisition.



- **Stormwater**

The town has been using a mixture called salt brine on the roads for the last 5 years. This decreases the amount of salt needed to treat roads and saves money; it will be continued. Aaron will attend the next meeting of the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group.

- **Invasive Species**

We ran an ad about invasives in the Forecaster for the last two weeks. We have a new brochure, available in the town office and at various nurseries and Audubon. Invasive plant workshops will be held May 17 through Community Programs, June 28 at Skillins, and Sept. 13 at Winslow Farm. Nancy, Jerry, Sarah, and Bob Shafto are going to work on invasives with 8th graders on June 10 at Community Park and June 12 at the Middle School.

- **Planning Board**

- The development at the intersection of Falmouth Road and Falls Road is on hold.
- The status of Schuster Lane in West Falmouth is not known.

- **Ad Hoc Zoning Committee**

Steve was absent; no report.

- **Vernal Pools**

Aaron has been surveying vernal pools and will continue another week or so.

Other Business/Other Ideas

- **MEACC**—Annual Meeting May 17. Nancy will talk with Bob about who is going.

Action Items

- Nancy will clarify with Amanda the role of the Conservation Commission in land acquisition.
- When appropriate Nancy will write a letter to the Town Council about Timber Creek, making sure that development follows the “least impact alternative.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Gilpin