



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of November 3, 2014

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also present: Ted Asherman, Caleb Hemphill, Bob Shafto, Amanda Sterns

Discussions

- **FCC Mission Statement-** discussion of the FCC mission statement. Amanda had provided a mission statement of the FCC. The FCC could review the mission statement, and if we have any changes we make a recommendation to the Council for their approval. Bob indicated that FCC Sec. 2-76 is based on state statute.

The town ordinance administrative code language that established the FCC was reviewed by the Commission and guests from the Land Management and Acquisition Committee. Details of the discussion are as follows:

No issues with Sect. 2-76. Except: Sentence 3 "It shall prepare and keep an index..." Sentence 4 "The conservation commission may ..." Some of this may apply.

Subsection b. "The conservation commission..." FCC does not currently do this. All easements now go to Land Trust. -> perhaps this language should be transferred to LMAC. This language is somewhat in the LMAC language.

Subsection c. is related to b. and sets up a process to go through the Planning board to provide recommendations -> subsection c should be removed entirely.

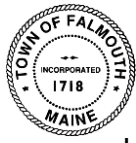
Subsection d. should be re-worded to include positive language about coordinating activities with LMAC.

Art. II-2-3. Boards, Committees, Commissions.

Use current LMAC format to restructure FCC mandate. Subsection a. should be broken up to:

1. Goals/Purpose
2. Administrative activities/what FCC can do.
3. Proposing ordinances/recommendations to the Council (directly)?
(e.g., wood-boilers)

Summary: Get rid of authority to purchase land, need clarification on list, FCC issue with recommendations to the town council (or any municipal body), we



should keep sentence in some way "Conservation commission may recommend..."

FCC presented work plan that included things we thought were in our purview:- wetlands and water bodies, but are there other things we should describe? Such as resource focus vs. land/property focus.

Should we have an inventory of natural resources in the town as the index? Sean Mahoney thought the FCC should focus on the eco-system of the town. May 5 we identified our goals.

Is FCC more conceptual "big picture" vs. LMAC, which is hands-on with specific properties? We want to make sure we fall within the Comprehensive Plan for the town. This is overlap with LMAC and probably can't avoid that. Bob reflected on the history of FCC's involvement in the Open Space plan, vernal pool mapping, and invasives.

LMAC's focus is on individual properties, not necessarily the big picture for conservation in the town. REAC will do the plastic bag initiative. Is LMAC property specific, versus resources focused in FCC? Perhaps FCC could focus on the resource side of things, and LMAC on the property side.

- **LMAC-Timber Harvesting**

Proposal to council from LMAC to do some harvesting. Within the last year, LMAC put together an approved land management plan for most properties. These were approved but with a condition that the council reserved the right to review and approve timber harvesting plans. The council approved the overall management plans for these two parcels (Blackstrap and Woods Road) but has not yet approved the timber harvest plan for these parcels. There have been other members of the community who have been upset by harvesting in the past and have made comments.

Issues- marking up trees and lining up someone to harvest

Harvesters not likely to make money off of this.

Bob gave overview of history of harvesting in some areas of town.

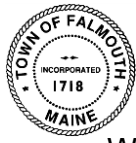
Species composition has been skewed to non-marketable species

Already in an unnatural state

Woods Road parcel is a mitigation site for the development of the Woodlands because a DWA was developed. The Woods Road property is to be managed as a DWA. MDEP and MDIFW require management near deer wintering areas.

Can the FCC describe a purpose for "Town Forests"?-> Greening of Falmouth
A principal objective of Greening of Falmouth for management is benefit of people of Falmouth.

Several councilors expressed concern and would like comments from FCC.



Will the FCC provide a recommendation well before November 24, when the Harvest Plans will be approved?

Steve would like to recommend we provide a position.

Paul wants time to read the Harvest Plan.

Might want to describe the Harvest Plan as a Forest Management Action Plan.

Steve made a motion to move December meeting to Nov. 17. The motion was seconded and approved.

Action Items

- Amanda to ask Lucky about history of LMAC language.
- Nancy to inquire with MEAC about mission statement examples.
- Nancy willing to work with Amanda on next draft using LMAC or similar as example. Then commission could review that, and revise. Likely need to focus on natural resources, and perhaps describe examples of those resources (water quality, water resources, sea level, wildlife habitat, invasives sp, wildlife, aesthetic value).
- Spatial data archives for the town to be investigated by Aaron
- Aaron to draft FCC opinion on forest management activities at Woods Road and Blackstrap Forest-> focus on resource, perhaps include education piece of it (elements of plan include education).
- Aaron is tasked to write a recommendation to the council regarding the proposed Harvest Plans for Woods Road and Blackstrap Road. Include an annotated bibliography.

Other Business

- Route 100 Area discussion on November 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting is Monday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Aaron Svedlow