



Falmouth Conservation Commission
Minutes of February 4, 2019

Members Present: Rich Bicknell, Jeanie Campbell, Jerry Goodall, Karen Jacobsen

Also Present: Kimberly Darling (staff)

Review of Minutes: The minutes of January 4, 2019, were unanimously accepted.

Pesticide Restriction Ordinance

- Rich will be going to Augusta tomorrow to affirm our support for the language change in the Maine Code regarding composition of the Board of Pesticides Control.
- Chad at Skillins can teach a class on kid safe lawns around April.
- Gary Glick at Falmouth High School will introduce the idea of creating educational materials to the science club.
- Friends of Casco Bay has educational packets for kids.
- South Portland shared with us contacts regarding all aspects of their website and is willing to let us use everything on their site to build our own. Next step will be to contact Nathan to see where it will live on the Town site. Kimberly has a new Sustainability Department; it seems like a good place for the site.
- We will not be getting our own Facebook Page; using the Town's page will get us a great deal more followers than creating and managing our own. Melissa is always looking for content and will post whatever notices, information, etc. that we would like.
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding a Safe Lawn Care class at Lunt Auditorium on April 10 at 6:00 PM.
- Discussion regarding having No Pesticide/Organic Garden Parties to spread the word on no pesticide yard care. We should work with garden clubs. Jerry will contact the Foreside Garden Club. Kimberly will contact Council Member King who has a no-pesticide yard.
- We should keep working with licensed pesticide applicators; don't let them think we don't think they know what they are doing.
 - No one has shown them science about what is in the bay and why it is hazardous.
 - We should work with them to build a baseline of information so that we know what to look for when we look (registry and reporting of usage in town).
 - Ask applicators if they are willing to educate themselves and spread the word/self-regulate.



Subcommittee Updates:

LMAC – Had a 3 ½ hour workshop to define the role of LMAC regarding The Greening of Falmouth 2.0. Prioritized items will be collated by Amanda. Trees in creeks are generally left in place; policy is to let nature be unless leaving it will cause issues for people (i.e. flooding).

Water Quality/Erosion—Friends of Casco Bay are using new technology (Cage of Science/Data Sonde) to monitor water quality and seasonal shift.

Invasive Species – FCC has been doing work on invasives for years and now has a \$15K budget, town roads have all been hit, some twice, we are now ready to have an invasives management program, determine where we should spend the budget from year to year; ideas include educating private property owners, continued work on roadsides, waste water pump stations, 2500 acres of open space. Immediate next step will be to determine what to do this year. The Town does not want volunteers to do applications; it wants contractors to do the work. Volunteers can be used for locating invasives and tracking what work gets done, not doing the actual work.

Tree City USA – Tree City Arbor Day Update: good progress has been made, the online application is pretty much all filled out (kudos to Kimberly and Jay for doing it), and the last two steps are an official proclamation and an actual Arbor Day celebration. April 27 was selected for Arbor Day. Our first celebration will be to locate the largest tree in Falmouth; fliers will be posted around town to get residents/trail users to look for trees. We will keep track of submissions and will check the trees and determine the biggest tree for the celebration. We will have some form of ceremony at the same time to plant the next generation Falmouth tree to grow up and replace the first tree when it dies.

Tick Information – Kimberly will be contacting the banner printer and getting the banner printed.

Environmental Effects of Small Engines – Kimberly will pass on the summary that Rich put together to Nathan and ask if there is further direction from Council.

Planning Board – No report at this time.

Highland Lake Leadership Team – No report at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. (Sarah will take the minutes.)

Submitted by Rich Bicknell.