



## Conservation Commission

December 9, 2020  
Virtual Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nancy Lightbody <i>Chair</i>	✓	Susan Gilpin	✓
Rich Bicknell	✓	Jerry Goodall	✓
Sarah Boudreau	✓	Karen Jacobsen	✓
Jeanie Campbell		Ashley Krulik <i>Staff</i>	✓
		Tommy Johnson <i>Council Liaison</i>	✓

Nancy began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom.

### Establish Quorum

It was observed that a quorum was established.

#### 1. Public Comment

Public comment was opened and closed.

#### 2. Administrative Details

Next meeting date: January 13, 2021 @ 7pm  
New Committee Chair? Discuss next meeting.

#### 3. Review of Draft Minutes

Minutes of November 2, 2020, were approved unanimously as written.

#### 4. Discussion of “big” ideas for the FCC going forward

- Follow up on fertilizer and pesticide annual applicator reports
- Maine Climate Council report and implications for Falmouth – harden infrastructure and prepare for sea level rise
- Continue to work to support trees

- Look to see how property tax structure affects natural resources
  - Does it penalize people for protecting?
  - Property taxes does support farms
  - New developments are within zoning laws. What can we do about them?
  - Find a new member who can read subdivision plans
  - Work with LMAC and Falmouth Land Trust to determine most valuable areas to preserve – connectivity is main priority
- Address plastics issue
  - Beyond Plastics
  - Karen to take the lead on following legislative action
- Pursue pesticide ban
- Preserve open space and natural lands
- Presumpscot River protective corridor

#### Pesticide and Fertilizer Restriction Ordinance: Updates

- Meeting scheduled for tomorrow (12/10) with water quality experts and members of the Town Council – Ashley, Nancy, and Sarah to attend.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. LMAC (Karen)
  - E-bike ordinance
  - Tidewater trails need attention
  - Discussed renaming of Suckfish Brook – LMAC opposes renaming
  - Evaluate 2-3 properties per year for upkeep
  - Worked on trails at Pine Grove
  - Working to restore Pine Grove to be a healthy forest
- b. Tree City USA: Heritage Trees (Rich)
  - Reviewed Portland and Palo Alto tree protections
  - Maine State Big Tree registration – tree height, circumference, and canopy width – 79 trees, 7 are in Falmouth
  - Recommendation is to have people nominate Heritage Tree and then have town evaluate
  - Is there a tree inventory? Ashley to check with Public Works.
- c. Planning Board (Nancy)
  - Several private ways being proposed
  - Building on RT 1 next to Bath Savings Bank
- d. Water Quality/Erosion (Susan) – no update

- e. Wetlands/Vernal Pools (Nancy) - no update
- f. Invasive Species (Sarah/Jerry/Nancy)
  - Treat invasives on roadsides – budget removed from FY20, still in consideration for FY21
  - Add Emerald Ash Borer to invasives communications – not an issue yet in Falmouth, Town Forester is watching for it
  - Continue Invasives educational outreach
  - Conservation Corps members can help with manual invasives removal (if there are volunteers) but cannot use pesticides
- g. Highland Lake Leadership Team (Nancy)
  - Working on education and outreach strategy

#### **9. Other Business/Other Ideas**

- Combine REAC and FCC?
  - Provide support to each other but not combine
  - Become more informed about REAC projects – add REAC to Subcommittee Reports
  - Appointments Committee is re-evaluating charges for each Committee to make clear mission statements
- Land conservation - Invite Falmouth Land Trust and LMAC to discuss priorities with the FCC
- Communications – include FCC messages in Falmouth Focus and social media channels
- Recycling Reform Bill – Town Council has adopted the resolution and it is on the REAC work plan

#### **10. Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.**

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7:00p.m.