



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
 - o Does it penalize people for protecting?
 - o Property taxes does support farms
 - o New developments are within zoning laws. What can we do about them?
 - o Find a new member who can read subdivision plans
 - o Work with LMAC and Falmouth Land Trust to determine most valuable areas to preserve – connectivity is main priority
- Address plastics issue
 - o Beyond Plastics
 - o 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.