

**BRUNSWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 8, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Kurt Stinson, Vice Chair Amanda Mahaffey, Secretary Amanda Bunker, Reg Elwell and Tom Rumpf

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Doxsee

A meeting of the Brunswick Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 in the Hawthorne Meeting Room, Federal Street. Chairman Kurt Stinson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION BY AMANDA MAHAFFEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2013, AUGUST 14, 2013, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 AND OCTOBER 9, 2013. SECONDED BY AMANDA BUNKER, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjustment to Agenda

John Leavitt, Maine Forest Ranger, stated that he has been speaking with Brunswick Fire Chief, Ken Brilliant and Parks and Recreation Director, Thomas Farrell to conduct a prescriptive burn at the Captain William Fitzgerald Site (formerly known as the 66 acre site) Ranger Leavitt stated that for prescriptive burns, he puts together a burn plan that describes why they are conducting the burn, the environmental parameters and equipment that they use and need. He stated that he can compile some of the information needed himself, but there is some information that needs to come from the town such as objectives and description of the site. Ranger Leavitt stated that he believed the Conservation Commission would have more knowledge of the site and thus be able to provide the information he needs. Ranger Leavitt described some of the prescriptive burns that Brunswick has done in the past and stated that they have been very productive with good results. Ranger Leavitt applauds the group for wanting the burn on this site.

Tom Rumpf asked if the site was too far gone to conduct a burn and Ranger Leavitt replied that the results should be good but that subsequent treatments may be needed. Ranger Leavitt stated that April is always a good time for this type of burn and asked for a clean map to include in the burn plan. Jeremy Doxsee to email outline map and EIS information to Ranger Leavitt. Discussion among members on past site visits. Ranger Leavitt noted that the Town will notify abutters and that the Town will obtain a burn permit; they may be able to place a notice on the TV 3. Tom asked if this area will generate a lot of smoke and Ranger Leavitt replied that it will, but that they will take into consideration the wind and weather conditions and plan to keep the smoke towards the north. Ranger Leavitt stated that he will need to know how many acres they want to burn. Amanda Bunker suggested a diagonal burn to follow the trial breakup; members agreed.

Amanda Bunker asked if there was a document of past burns in Brunswick and if not, suggested creating one that explains where and why prescriptive burns are done. Jeremy to touch base with Tom Farrell and confirm that he will continue to be the lead contact and organizer.

Conservation Commission Activities

1. Brunswick Landing - no updates
2. Natural Resource Stewardship - no updates
3. Natural Resource Inventory and Planning

a. Summary of site visit to Town-owned properties along Androscoggin River

Kurt Stinson stated that they conducted the site visit two days after the first snow storm but that, for the most part, the trails were well established; the south side is a little more overgrown. Kurt stated that the trail against the cemetery property may be hard to get by and noted that one portion of the trail may need a bridge. Kurt stated that the Recreation Commission requested this visit as they are trying to develop a trail network from the canoe portage to Coffin Pond and beyond to the I-295 bridge. Discussion on funding; Jeremy Doxsee stated that he would fill out the grant questionnaire for NEAC which was sent to him.

Amanda Bunker expressed that she would like to question/confirm the direction that the Conservation Commission is going in from staff. Amanda Bunker asked for clarification on whether they are the group to be doing trail development or should another Commission be handling this with input from the Conservation Commission? Kurt replied that he believes that the Recreation Commission is looking for the conservation point of view for this trail. Jeremy suggested that the Commission point out to the Recreation Commission some of the problems and problem areas with suggestions. Discussion on trail alignment and Amanda Bunker suggested taking Coffin Pond to the boat launch, take the lower trail, and beyond coffin pond take the trail along the water.

b. Update on Open Space Inventory

Jeremy Doxsee pointed out that there are comments from former and current staff members included within the document. Jeremy to forward word version for members to review and to bring Appendix B to a workshop tentatively scheduled for January 29, 2014 for clarification and discussion.

Discussion between members on approval process for the plan and steps that need to be taken to additional properties that need to be added.

4. Subcommittee Updates – no updates

Review 2013 Goals & Discuss Drafting of Annual Report

Amanda Bunker reviewed the 2013 Conservation Commission Annual Report and pointed out that she did add the mission and objective statements that they created. Amanda Bunker encouraged members to add any information that they may want added or changed. Members to review for February meeting motion to approve.

Discussion on staff and town expectations of the Commission. Jeremy Doxsee to touch base with staff and obtain feedback for expected goals for 2014. Amanda Bunker provided a set of facilitator questions for members to review and fill for the next meeting to assist in goals for the Commission for the upcoming year.

Establish 2014 Goals

Postponed to February meeting.

Other Business

- Jeremy Doxsee to establish a list of easements for review in 2014.
- Kurt Stinson pointed out that the Conservation Commission has two pictures up in Patagonian Freeport store. Both pictures were taken during the clean-up day at Coffin School. Kurt to write a statement for the Times Record.
- Kurt Stinson stated that the Commission has been asked by the Recreation Commission to look at the remaining parcels that still need management plans and determine what ones should be done first.
- Kurt Stinson stated that he has received a notice from the Town Clerk regarding changes in the Boards and Commissions Policies and noted that members will no longer be notified of term expiration; this is now the responsibility of the Chair. In addition, members can now continue serving until reappointed or the position is filled.

Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Attest:



Tonya Jenusaitis
Recording Secretary