

**BRUNSWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 16, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Kurt Stinson, Secretary Amanda Bunker, Jason Coombs, Reg Elwell and Tom Rumpf

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Doxsee

A meeting of the Brunswick Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in Council Chambers, 85 Union Street, 1st Floor. Chairman Kurt Stinson called the meeting to order at 4:00P.M.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

a) March 12, 2014

MOTION BY TOM RUMPF TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014. SECONDED BY REG ELWELL, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Conservation Commission Activities

a) Brunswick Landing - no updates

b) Natural Resource Stewardship - no updates

c) Final easement Inspection Schedule for 2014

Kurt Stinson clarified that the names highlighted in yellow are the easements that Jeremy Doxsee believes need to be inspected this year as included in the packet.

- Wood pond
- Johns point – Amanda Bunker noted that this inspection has been slow moving because Brunswick Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) has a working relationship with the Commission on this site as well as Millers Point, but that the language is messy. BTLT is trying to decide whether or not to take this on.

Jeremy to review dates and follow-up with a revised list at the May meeting.

d) Natural Resource Inventory and Planning

- Follow up on new River and Coastal Waters Commission to Elect CC member to serve on RCWC?

Harbor Master Dan Devereaux explained the history of the newly adopted Harbor Management Plan and what the River and Coastal Waters Commission is. Dan stated that this Commission will be working to implement this plan incrementally and to facilitate the needed ordinance changes. Dan to forward a copy of the Harbor Management Plan to the Conservation Commission.

❖ Place on May agenda to Elect CC member to serve on RCWC.

- Follow up to letter from Harpswell Conservation Commission regarding the Kate Furbish Preserve Wetland Restoration Project

Kurt Stinson clarified that this is a letter going to the Harpswell Conservation Commission regarding the Kate Furbish Preserve Wetland Restoration Project. Jeremy Doxsee added that a letter was to be drafted by Steve Walker regarding a letter the he had received on January 3, 2014 by David Chipman; the Conservation Commission was to reference Steve's response. Jeremy stated that he has reached out to Steve but that he has not heard back yet. Jeremy to generate a cover letter referencing Steve's response once it arrives to be signed and sent out as soon as possible.

- Ongoing discussion of a Council workshop: who, when, discussion topics, etc.

Kurt Stinson stated that he has shared emails with Town Councilor Benet Pols who is considering options. Kurt said that due to the budget and the hiring of a new Town manager, this meeting may not happen as quickly as desired and stated that one suggestion was to hold a joint workshop with some of the other committees/commissions. Amanda Bunker replied that she does not believe that the Commission should have to wait too long, after the budget is complete is fine, and pointed out that this is intended to be a discussion with the Town Council.

- Update of prescribed burn at Captain Fitzgerald Park

Jeremy Doxsee stated that he had spoken to Tom Farrell (Parks and Recreation Director) who did not have any updates at this time but did state that they have entered into the window-of-opportunity for the burn, April 15th thru end of May.

e) Subcommittee Updates

- Volunteers for website subcommittee?

Kurt Stinson stated that this could consist of two to three people who will need to decide what should be placed on the web, compile the information and meet with Julie Erdman to put the content on the website. Jeremy Doxsee

suggested looking at other Conservation websites for ideas. Jason Coombs and Tom Rumpf to begin research and discussion. Kurt suggested that the first thing to discuss would be what kinds of things would be of interest to place on website. Jeremy pointed out that an upgraded website will also tie in with the education outreach goal.

- Ideas for 2014 educational outreach project

Kurt stated that options for an outreach project could include another clean-up day or possible joint clean-up day. Amanda Bunker said that she wonders if there may be opportunities at either the Kate Furbish or the Captain Fitzgerald properties later this year; nothing too big, but something small would be OK. Amanda said that it would be nice to do something on a conservation property itself. Kurt suggested clean-up of invasive, trees, brush, trails, bridges and signage in East Brunswick across from Skillings (Pelligrini Woods). Jeremy asked for clarification on whether this would be a volunteer clean-up day or education outreach similar to the Coffin School clean-up day last year. Discussion on the Capt. Fitzgerald and Kate Furbish property, fences, trails and accessibility; possibly joint educational outreach with the Recreation Commission. Jeremy to speak with Tom Farrell about possible outreach joint projects.

4. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite update

a) Status and possible conservation input to Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Committee (ZORC)?

Jeremy Doxsee reviewed the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite status and stated that they have begun to discuss the Farm and Forest Districts in east and west Brunswick as well as the Coastal Protection Districts and they are trying to improve protections in these areas with watersheds in them. Jeremy stated that ZORC has discussed changing the Farm and Forest 3 District to a Coastal Protection Zone with larger minimum lot sizes and create greater buffers without creating a lot of non-conforming lots as there are many small lots in this District as well. Jeremy stated that the intentions are to simplify the districts, make it easier to understand and provide greater protection. Jeremy said that he would welcome any ideas. Amanda Bunker replied that any area of the code that talks about the Town accepting Open Space, specifically for subdivisions, and acceptance of easements or lands for conservation purposes; Jason Coombs agreed. Tom Rumpf posed the question of what is the benefit of some of the easements that the Town owns which have no public entrance. Amanda replied that she believes it is the goal to reduce the impacts on the natural resources and have a better plan of development. Jeremy to forward sections of the current ordinance pertaining to Open Space in subdivisions. Jeremy discussed the consolidation within the Growth areas and reduction in zoning districts. Amanda and Jason suggested that the Conservation Commission be able to review subdivision conservation requests. Jeremy to schedule a workshop following the May meeting.

5. Follow up on 2014 Goals and Objectives

a) Short-term objectives

Zoning Ordinance rewrite and educational outreach as discussed above.

6. Other Business

- Northern Casco Bay sign Project – Jeremy Doxsee reviewed the project and said that once a draft has been developed, Bethany and Steve Walker would like the Conservation Commission review. Jeremy said that there are six signs that need to be placed and that Bethany and Steve will be looking to Tom Farrell for direction on there, but would welcome participation or input for the Conservation Commission. Jeremy said that Bethany and Steve are looking for photographs and historical images of these sites as well.

7. Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 5:26 P.M.

Attest:



Tonya Jenusaitis
Recording Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE ACTION MINUTES. THE ENTIRE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.BRUNSWICKME.ORG.