

**BRUNSWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 14, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Kurt Stinson, Secretary Amanda Bunker, Jason Coombs, Tom Rumpf, Reg Elwell (arrived approximately 5:00)

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Doxsee

A meeting of the Brunswick Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 in Council Chambers, 85 Union Street, 1st Floor. Due to a lack of a quorum, members workshopped until 5 pm, when a fourth member (Reg Elwell) arrived. Chairman Kurt Stinson called the meeting to order at 5:00P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

a) April 9, 2014

Minutes postponed until the May meeting.

3. Conservation Commission Activities

a) Brunswick Landing – No updates

b) Natural Resource Stewardship – No updates

c) Natural Resource Inventory and Planning

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

Reg Elwell to serve on the RCWC, Kurt Stinson to notify Harbor Master Dan Devereaux.

MOTION BY TOM RUMPF TO NOMINATE REG ELWELL TO THE RCWC. SECONDED BY JASON COOMBS, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Kurt Stinson stated that a letter was to be prepared and sent out later this week.

- Discuss Council workshop for Open Space Inventory presentation

Jeremy Doxsee stated that this presentation will be delivered after the budget season so that it is not lost in the shuffle; Jeremy is anticipating delivery in early June. Amanda Bunker suggested that when the cover letter is received, a Commission member speak during the public comment period at the Council meeting again stating that the Conservation Commission is available if they have any questions and that they are looking to schedule a workshop. Jeremy to submit inventory into the Council mailboxes in early June.

- Review Captain Fitzgerald Park prescribed burn and next steps

Jason Coombs stated that the burn went well, on schedule and as planned. Jason said that the burn did not clear the trees as the fire spread quickly; the Commission may want to discuss ways to remove them at some point to open the area back up. Amanda Bunker suggested that Steve Walker be invited to the next site visit and talk about a strategy for going in and removing the white pine. Kurt suggested that the Commission go out on a site visit as a group. Amanda said that she had spoken with Tom Farrell, Parks and Recreation Director, who had stated that he recommended we have photo documentation of the site every three months or so to record the changes in the landscape and compare to next year. Jason suggested that they do a site walk before the tick population becomes any bigger. Discussion between members on what species of trees they may want to keep for the natural habitat and when/who to plan a burn on the other half of the park. Jeremy Doxsee to reach out to Steve Walker; Forest Ranger, John Leavitt; Director of Parks and Recreation, Tom Farrell and a Parks and Recreation Commission member to schedule a site visit workshop on May 28th at the Captain Fitzgerald Park.

Jeremy to look into the possibility of the summer intern to do the baseline inventory (similar to what was done at the Furbish Preserve) at the three other town-owned parcels in the northwest corner of Brunswick Landing site per Amanda's suggestion. Discussion on who to contact for keys to the preserve for access and when the fences may come down. Jason Coombs replied that it was his belief that there are still three spots that have not yet been cleared for access by the Navy.

d) Subcommittee Updates

Jason Coombs stated that he has spoken with Julie Erdman about getting information onto the website. Jason said that he has looked at other sites and believes it is just a matter of deciding what to put on the Conservation Commissions page. Jeremy Doxsee suggested that he and Jason meet once every few weeks to slowly start uploading information.

4. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite update

a) Set workshop date for Open Space Development ordinance and acceptance criteria for conservation easements.

Tom Rumpf, in reference to the Open Space Development ordinance, stated that he reviewed the zoning ordinance materials Jeremy Doxsee provide in the packets and that according to the materials, it states that everything should go through the Conservation Commission and asked if this has historically happened or if this was new. Kurt Stinson replied that generally the developers go through the sketch plan with Planning Board and then to the Conservation Commission if they are following the open space plan per the ordinance. Tom stated that the standards seem good, but that it is clear that some of the Open Space properties would not have met these standards. Amanda Bunker replied that she has only seen one project come before the Commission and it seemed as though it came through rather late in the process. Tom suggested that this be an issue that they address in the rewrite and that this be addressed at the Sketch Plan phase. Discussion between members on the Planning Board process and possible joint site visits with the Planning Board.

In reference to the acceptance criteria for conservation easements, Amanda Bunker stated that she was copied on correspondence to the Town from Angela Twitchell of the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust (BTLT), but has not had the opportunity to review it yet. Amanda believes that BTLT are using something similar to the Yarmouth model, but that she would like to speak to BTLT directly. Tom Rumpf asked if the Town has ever asked for a monitoring endowment fund for the easements and that this is why they are in the situation now where the Town has too many easements to monitor and not enough resources. Amanda replied that this is also something that BTLT is looking into for monitoring and maintenance. Jeremy Doxsee to research what other towns or communities may utilize a monitoring fund. Tom noted the Moosehead Lake Conservation effort and endowment.

5. Other Business

6. Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 5:28 P.M.

Attest:



Tonya Jenusaitis
Recording Secretary

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