

APPROVED
Calais Conservation Commission Minutes
6/11/2015 - Calais Town Office

Present: Drew Lamb, Grant Ornstein, Stephanie Kaplan (recorder)

Absent: Julie Hand, Neal Maker

Guests: Toby Talbot, Jan Ohlsson, John McCullough, Bill Davis, Gail Graham, Mat Barewicz, Denise Wheeler, Larry Bush, Scott Bassage, Noreen Bryan, Reed Cherington, Matt Peters, Juanita Nunn, Kristina Bielenberg

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: May minutes were approved.

Conservation Fund Report: The CF balance as of May 31, 2015 was \$74,626.95.

Natural Resources Inventory – Matt Peters who is conducting the NRI explained what it is and the process he is following. He has reviewed existing information about Calais’s natural resources including maps from the Agency of Natural Resources and aerial photographs, and has driven around looking from his vehicle. He will want to investigate certain properties in more detail. Once he has identified those landowners, they will be contacted and asked for permission for him to go on their land. It will be made clear that there is no obligation that they allow him to do so, and there will be no consequences if they refuse.

Members of the public asked about how the information will be used. It was explained that all Matt will be doing is collecting information, and it’s up to the Planning Commission and town residents to decide how to use it. He will also share the information with the Agency of Natural Resources to add to their statewide database, if the town wants to provide the information to the state.

Matt said he has been looking at wetlands and found substantially more than are currently shown on statewide and National Wetlands Inventory maps. He will be further refining the boundaries of some of the wetlands, including those that are already identified on existing maps.

A question was asked about what if a landowner disagrees with Matt’s identification of a particular natural resource on the property. It was explained that before Matt finalizes his report, he will present his findings to the town at a public meeting and this will be an opportunity to correct any errors.

Matt explained that there are too many mid to high value sites that he would like to visit, so he is prioritizing them to a manageable number and creating a list of the top priority sites. Then the landowners will be contacted for their permission to access the sites, and if permission is given, Matt will arrange a time to visit the sites.

Matt then reviewed the list he had compiled and linked on the Calais web site of natural resources of interest for the public to consider in determining whether there are any such natural resources on their land or if they're aware of any somewhere else in Calais.

Matt had brought a large map of the town and members of the CC as well as a few of the interested public told him of potentially significant natural resources and identified them on the map for his information in deciding where to investigate in more detail. Most of the public did not stay to participate in this.

As the hour was late when Matt was finished, he was thanked for his work and sensitivity toward landowners, and the CC postponed the other items on its agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.