

Calais Conservation Commission minutes, September 4, 201

Meeting was held at 7 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office.

Present – Steve Cusick, Drew Lamb (minutes), Julie Hand, Pam DeAndrea, Jennifer Whitman, Stephanie Kaplan, Grant Orenstein (prospective member), Noreen Bryan (member of Calais Lakes and Streams Committee)

Minutes – Minutes from 7/10 were approved. Minutes from 8/14 will be edited for approval at October meeting.

Conservation Fund – Fund stands at \$82,301.99, as of 7/31/13.

Zoning Issues

- 1.) Peter Bachman Parcel – Commission agreed that Zoning Administrator and Development and Review Board must follow and apply the standards in the zoning by-laws. There is general concern that in Rolf's letter to the Times Argus he comes across as expressing the views of the town instead of his personal views. Steve agreed to write a letter to the Times Argus representing the CCC and will publish on FPF discussing the: a.) importance of following town by-laws; b.) importance of protecting natural resources of the town; c.) importance of being clear in a public letter that Rolf is expressing his opinion, but not the whole town.
- 2.) WRC application for Memorial Hall parking lot – DRB hearing to occur on 9/26. Proposed parking lot is located on the inside of the road curve, across from Memorial Hall. Much concern about the proximity of the parking area to the pond, which seems to be less than 50 ft. Jennifer and Pam will confirm this distance and report back. Stephanie will draft letter to describe how proposal conflicts with by laws for conditional use permit in that it: a.) conflicts with the character of the area (cutting of trees and replacing with gravel; b.) raises water quality concerns during storm run-off. Twenty foot buffer from inside of road is not sufficient to protect the pond, especially given that the road is not vegetated; c.) parking lot lies within a 150 foot setback requirement for new construction. CCC wants "interested party status" so that we may officially express our opinion and be included in correspondence. Additional discussion included the impact of construction on traffic (Why 43 spaces? Too many?), nuisance of noise, dust, pollution, and fumes.

Chickering Bog Expansion – Selectboard voiced approval of \$15,000 from the conservation fund for expansion of the Chickering Bog Natural Area by The Nature Conservancy. TNC will be placing the property in current use and pay town taxes on all 200+ acres of the property.

Protecting Groundwater – Grant proposed language changes for the town plan that will aid in funding for a hydro-geologic study for the town. Proposals by Grant written in a letter (to ?). Grants are evaluated in a hearing which occurs in Oct. Grant will look into specifics for the proposal.

Village Designation/NRC Grant – Steve will propose village designation to selectboard for approval on 9/9. Pam will provide Steve with benefits of village designation, and will contact Jim McCullough by phone for his input. Pam will continue investigating NRI grant and will contact Brett Engstrom and Matt Peters about work on the NRI.

Road Advisory Committee – In the midst of drafting standards. Stephanie reports that there are several subcommittees working on various tasks. Next meeting is 9/12.

October meeting scheduled for 10/2/13 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.