

Calais Conservation Commission Minutes January 8, 2014 at the Calais Town Office

Present: Steve Cusick, Drew Lamb, Jennifer Whitman, Pam DeAndrea, Julie Hand (recorder), Grant Orenstein, Stephanie Kaplan.

September minutes approved
December minutes approved as amended

Calais Conservation Fund as of November 30th, 2013: **\$86,379.45**. This includes the annual \$4,000.00 deposit from Town of Calais.

Steve will follow up with the Nature Conservancy on the disbursement for Chickering Bog expansion.

Town Plan

After the December 17th meeting with the Planning Commission the Conservation Commission was assured by Jack Russell that a Natural Resources addendum to the Town Plan will carry the same legal weight as having the NR section an integral part of the Town Plan.

In revising the NR section, it is important that NR provisions be specific and mandatory. Unless they are clearly cited as such in the Town Plan, they will have no legal effect in Act 250. If they are specific and mandatory, Act 250 is required to use the provisions in deciding if a proposed project complies with the Town Plan.

Anne and Eric will be asked to come to a meeting to talk about the differences between the CCC's original proposed natural resources section and Anne's revisions.

Assignment: CCC members agreed to review one of the plans (Anne W's version or Eric's):

- go through the plans of action, and see which ones are the most critical. Consider it two ways: what needs attention immediately, and what will need emphasis beyond five years – future vision.
- do any editing, including deleting any of them that are redundant or unnecessary; look for opportunities to state plans of action in a positive manner and suggest incentives for following the zoning regulations.

Ground Water Update

Groundwater section in the Town Plan is under Utilities– discussed language concerning groundwater regulatory guidelines and planning. We found out from the State that Calais will not need to kick in \$6,000 for the groundwater study.

Lake Wise Award Sign – All agreed (again) that the best placement for this was at the boating access.

Proposed Shoreline Regulations – How does the proposed State law compare to Calais Regulations? The Senate is making changes to the version passed by the House so it is not known at this time what the law will say so it's difficult to compare it with Calais's regulations.

Calais' Surface Water Regulations are ambiguous. We need to clarify current shoreline protection in Zoning Regs.

We will hold off on making recommendations until the proposed State legislation is clarified.

Natural Resources Inventory funding – we discussed alternatives to finding money for a NR inventory. One possibility is to ask the Selectboard to allocate the money (\$20,000 total) from the budget, and perhaps it could be done in stages over two years to spread out the cost. Pam will talk to the consultant to see if he thinks it could be done over two years instead of one.

Bliss Pond Trail Signs/Map

Drew is choosing markers to use on Bliss Pond Trails.

Map – Vast trail and trails leading out of the Town Forest will not be included.

Roads Committee - Roads Committee will submit recommendations to Select Board for approval on 1/9/2014