

Final Minutes Calais Conservation Commission meeting

12-10-15 Recorded by Grant Orenstein.

Attending-

Conservation Commission -Stephanie Kaplan, Drew Lamb, Matt Barewicz, Julie Hand, Grant Orenstein.

Planning Commission- John McCullough, Jan Ohlsson.

Select Board- Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage.

7:08 meeting started:

- 1- Minutes of Nov. meeting approved
- 2- Fund Balance 78,683.61
- 3- Ridgeline Protection-
Drew handed out a map of prominent ridgelines in Calais, based on previous discussions.
The proposed areas include from the peak down about 200'.

Discussions points included:

The planning commission will look it over.

Question about provisions does the map apply to Act 250 or Zoning?

Regulatory language was agreed by consensus at last meeting.

Timing of the hearing for this proposal.

Discussion of the ridges in town.

Vote called to accept the map as it is-Grant

2nd-Matt

All were in favor.

4-Shoreland Zoning Changes

Question about the exception in Maple Corner.

John explained the State geologists found the ledge east of the start of camp road protects the pond from drainage.

Stephanie asked why 250' is better than 800'.

John explained the state regs. have a package standards, mitigation strategies for run offs, and buffers. It's easier to understand and apply to one set of regs. The point system in the state regs. was discussed.

Noted that Town doesn't have enforcement staff, and State doesn't have enough enforcement staff to protect the water quality.

It was generally agreed the community culture, and ongoing education in support of the zoning standards are important tools to rely on.

Conservation Commission agreed they'd like the buffer standards to apply to existing as well as new development. John will check on the zoning regarding existing lots.

Stephanie pointed out the purpose of the district was altered, in a way that emphasizes development over conserving the water resources. Others agreed.

John countered that the new wording is consistent with zoning, as zoning is pertinent to development.

More discussions of the State regs, and if reducing the Shoreland standards is a good idea. It was agreed that having the State regs in an appendix to the zoning, so they are laid out in the same document is a good idea in any case.

Cuts to the language in Section 5.3 were found to be for clarity, brevity.

- 5- Groundwater maps explanation. Grant offered to set up a meeting with Jon Kim, or Larry Becker to explain the maps from the ground water mapping grant.
- 6- A town tree committee is forming. Stephanie will send out info on an initial meeting.
- 7- Public Comment- Ann Smith and friends of the Winooski will start planting buffer trees along the banks of the Kingsbury branch, on land owned by Aaron and Polly Wheeler

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm.

