

## **Calais Conservation Commission Meeting April 1, 2015**

**Meeting began:** 7:15 at Calais Town Office.

**Members present:** Julie Hand (recorder), Drew Lamb, Neal Maker, Stephanie Kaplan, Pam DeAndrea, Grant Orenstein. **Guest:** Matt Peters.

### **Expanding Membership**

Pam DeAndrea notified us of her resignation. Pam has given us years of dedicated, high-quality work. Thank you Pam, you will be missed!

Discussed the need for new members, especially now that we will be doing more creative projects relating to action plans in the Natural Resources Section of the Town Plan. Each of us will try to recruit friends that might be interested in being involved with the Commission.

**Fund Balance:** TD Bank Conservation Commission Fun Balance as of 3/31/2015: \$74,608.13

### **March minutes approved**

### **Natural Resource Inventory**

Matt Peters has been approved by the Selectboard to conduct the Natural Resource Inventory. Matt described his process for the '15 inventory, Phase 1. He will begin with a landscape analysis (conducting a wetlands assessment, identifying significant geologic features and natural communities, potential natural areas) using online maps and data (maps of hydric soils, GIS, the Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory and other existing sources). This information should guide his field research, where he will identify specific sensitive areas (such as vernal pools, various wetlands, and wildlife linkages as well as plants and animals living within different natural areas and habitats). The computer research should be completed by end of June after which Matt will head into the field to collect data specific to Calais. He will only visit those sites for which he has landowner permission.

The CCC shared previous vernal pool and connecting habitat (wildlife linkages) maps done by Candace Shafer, and other work done by various CCC members in the past. Matt felt these would be very helpful.

In Phase 2 during the summer of '16 - providing time and budget allow for this - Matt will be mapping Habitat blocks and Wildlife linkages.

Stephanie will be primary point person for the NR.

Stephanie, Drew and Julie will work with Matt on questions for a landowner survey, which will help identify specific natural features and resources on Calais residents' property. Again, Matt will only enter properties for which he has gained permission from the landowner.

**Executive Session enter:** 8:21

Real estate matter

**Executive Session close** 8:45

### **Plans of Action:**

Discussed strategies for organizing action plans in Town Plan. Neal will organize the action steps into broad categories to facilitate our discussion at the May meeting.

**Meeting adjourn** 9:00pm