

Calais Conservation Commission Minutes - APPROVED
November 6, 2013

Present:

Steve Cusick, Julie Hand, Drew Lamb, Pam DeAndrea, Stephanie Kaplan, Jennifer Whitman (recorder)

Absent: Grant Orenstein

Meeting called to order at 7pm. Adjourned 8:35pm

Conservation Fund \$82,301.99 as of August statement. No current statement presented.

The October minutes were approved as amended.

Poor Fen Update:

ANR DEC Watershed Management Division reclassified the Calais Poor Fen from class 3 to a class 2 wetland and readjusted the buffer back to the Sorenson buffer that had been agreed on. This buffer apparently is sufficient to protect the fen.

Selectboard meeting planned for 11/11/13 to discuss whether they want to go ahead with the possible purchase of the McCullough quarry as had been proposed before ANR changed the buffer.

Village Designation Update:

Applications for Maple Corner and East Calais are in.

The application for Adamant will be worked on this week. Pam will submit it to Richard Amore.

CCC will find out about the grant for money to do a Natural Resource Inventory in December.

Pam plans to meet with Richard Amore from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development on the 11/25/13. At our next meeting Pam will let the CCC know if East Calais gets the designation

Groundwater Update:

Pam attended a State of Vermont Groundwater Mapping meeting

Groundwater grants: state revolving funds only eligible if you have a water project you want to develop.

Study will include; mapping water, gathering existing data, water quality.

Town Plan Update:

2013 is a rewrite year for the Calais Town Plan.

Commission decided to have one member attend the Calais Planning Commission Meetings
CPC meet every 2 weeks.

Stephanie and Steve agreed to start working on revising the Natural Resource section of the town plan.

Roads Committee Update:

Roads Working Group Update:

The group met with Alex Portaluppi from VTrans
and Kari Dolan, Program Manager for
Watershed Management Division/Ecosystem Restoration Program at ANR.

ANR's primary efforts are directed at preventing phosphorus run off. Their stormwater prevention designs require huge ditches, which conflict with maintaining the character of Calais roads -- which is part of the mission of the Calais Roads Working Group. The Calais Roads Working Group has been developing standards for the roads and there was positive response from Alec and Kari. They explained that there need to be standards for towns to follow, but if a town spends the time to create a plan that meets the same goals, with erosion control measures such as vegetated shoulders, crowning etc. they would consider approving it and perhaps use it as a model if satisfactory.

This working group also met with Mike Garand, East Montpelier Road Foreman -- he was supportive of the work the group has been doing and offered helpful suggestions to include in the standards.

Watershed Grant Update:

Noreen is submitting