

**DRAFT**  
**Calais Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**9/12/2017 - Calais town office**

**Present:** Larry Bush, Lou Cherry, Julie Hand, Stephanie Kaplan, Drew Lamb, Richard Maizell, Neal Maker (recorder)

**Guests:** Fletcher Dean

**Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.
- Fall Foliage Event: The commission traditionally sponsors an event at the Calais Fall Foliage Festival, which is Saturday and Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> this year. Several possible group hikes were discussed and the new Bradley Loop trail was chosen as the most promising. *Stephanie will contact Darby Bradley and ask if he is interested in leading a hike there.* Hikes could also be led up Robinson Hill or in the Chapin Town Forest. The Commission will not meet before the event, so the details will be worked out by email.
- Rural Roadside Vegetation Assessment: Stephanie gave an update on the roadside assessment being conducted by Joanne Garton of Vermont Urban and Community Forestry, in coordination with an advisory committee made up of town residents. Calais was chosen as a pilot town for creating a statewide Resilient Right-of-Way project, and Joanne is visiting stretches of the town's roads in the coming weeks to build an inventory protocol. She will work with the advisory committee to develop recommendations for the town to improve right-of-way management, and will write a Calais right-of-way action plan. Stephanie stressed that a comprehensive plan for roadside invasive plants is outside the scope of this project, and would need to be pursued independently.
- Memorial Hall & Number 10 Shoreline: Stephanie gave an update on the effort to restore Memorial Hall and conserve the Number 10 Pond shoreline. The group organizing the effort is focusing now on raising money for repairs, and will likely reach out to the Commission for financial assistance. Stephanie shared the Conservation Fund guidelines with them.
- Potential New Members: Several residents have expressed some interest in joining the Commission; *Drew and Larry will follow up with them. Richard also had some ideas for potential new members and will reach out to them.*
- Town Plan Action Items: The commission is tasked with a number of action items, which are documented throughout the Town Plan and are difficult to prioritize and plan around in their current organization. *Neal will reorganize the applicable action items* so that they are easier to work with and the commission will revisit them at the next meeting. Many of the action items relate to landowner outreach and education, and Stephanie suggested that the Commission focus efforts on those areas this winter. Some ideas discussed include involving service-learning programs

in local schools, hosting meetings of property owners with specific natural resources on their properties, and organizing open houses.

- Other business
  - Fletcher Dean has been the town's volunteer Green Up Day coordinator for the last 18 years and has stepped down. He invited the Commission to consider taking on the coordinator responsibilities, or to provide input into finding a replacement coordinator. All agreed that he should advertise the position to the wider community and the Commission will discuss taking on the coordination if there is no other interest. The position represents a minimal, once a year time commitment, and consists of coordinating with the Green Up Vermont organization in Montpelier, hanging posters, and being present during the morning of Green Up Day.
  - Neal asked other members to provide him with data they collected over the summer on roadside invasive plants. He will bring a map to the next meeting to record the data on.
  - Julie suggested that the commission reach out to other nearby conservation commissions to compare notes about common issues and how they are addressed. The commission will revisit the topic at the next meeting.
  - A number of relevant events are coming up:
    - Larry and Lou are planning to attend the State Government Municipal Day on Sep 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - The 2017 Summit of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions will be held Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    - All members hope to attend the Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Calais Planning Commission meeting about shoreline development regulation. The Planning Commission expects to share a draft of their new regulations prior to the meeting.
- Conservation Fund balance: T.B.D.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the town office.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

### **Topics for the Next Meeting**

- Town Plan Action Items with focus on landowner education and outreach
- Mapping roadside invasive plant data that members collected
- Visiting other towns' conservation commissions