

Calais Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Calais Town Office
April 10, 2018, 7:00 pm

Present: Larry Bush, Neal Maker, Julie Hand, Maddy Morgan

Absent: Stephanie Kaplan, Drew Lamb, Lou Cherry

Guests: Katie Lane-Karnas (recording minutes)

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Agenda revisions or additions: None.
3. Approve minutes: Neal Maker moved and Julie Hand seconded to approve the January 30, 2018 minutes; the motion passed 4-0.
Julie Hand moved and Neal Maker seconded to approve the February 13, 2018 minutes; the motion passed 4-0.
4. Conservation Fund balance: As of the end of March, \$84,239.50 in the fund (this includes the \$30,000 from the Armstrong Fund, which is due to be transferred to another town account). There was a \$100 donation.
5. Town Plan action items: The Commission reviewed the "Town Plan Action Steps for Conservation Commission" document, considering which items may be prioritized, and how to align this consideration with the town's obligations in light of Act 171 (identifying contiguous forest blocks and corridors). The Commission began a plan to identify items already completed, identify if there is another body that has already completed the work, and how to structure the items on the Town Plan in terms of grouping, sequencing, coordinating and prioritizing, while considering alignment with the obligations set out by Act 171. They considered the efforts that Calais has already undertaken and so will not need to be high priorities, how the Conservation Commission and other town bodies may both be working toward the implementation of Act 171 and utilizing the work the state has done in providing guidance for the act's implementation. The Commission discussed the challenges of identifying potential members to serve on the Commission.
6. Amphibian crossing guards: Neal Maker reported on his work communicating with North Branch Nature Center (NBNC) about the amphibian crossing program they have been running for several years, which involves data collection for inventories in specific areas as well as helping guide amphibians. Many potential sites in Calais have been identified for crossing, and more volunteers are needed. Crossings occur between March and May on the first wet, warm night (above 40 degrees at night, without too

much snowpack). The Commission will communicate the information about the crossing program offered by the NBNC to Calais residents, and considered identifying volunteers who may also be interested in inventorying vernal pools.

7. Emerald ash borers and other invasive threats to trees: The Commission discussed data and ways to identify ash borers (woodpecker activity and a blonder color due to that activity).
8. Other business: None. The CVRPC's Water Advisory Committee has invited members of the Commission to join. The Commission discussed a water quality sampling initiative that the Water Advisory Committee has initiated as well.
9. Public comment: None.
10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Date: 4/11/2018 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas
Approved by the Conservation Commission at the 6/12/2018 meeting