

Calais Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Maple Corner Community Center

July 19, 2018, 7:00 pm

Present: Stephanie Kaplan, Larry Bush, Neal Maker, Julie Hand, Drew Lamb, Pat Johnson (recorder)

Absent: Maddy Morgan

Guests: Matt Peters, Noreen Bryan (Lakes&Streams Committee), Rob Lamb

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of June minutes was postponed.
3. Identifying and prioritizing habitat blocks and corridors: Matt Peters, who did the Calais NRI and wrote two reports, described how he identified habitat blocks that are described in his Phase 2 report. The CC discussed how to proceed with prioritizing the habitat blocks, e.g. what criteria would be used to determine ranking. Matt suggested that the Chart on page 69 will help prioritize blocks – we'll need to identify what we are prioritizing for and then get public input, perhaps on how to weight the various considerations. Stephanie recently discovered a Guidance document for how to proceed with complying with Act 171 and everyone should read it carefully. Neal has also done some habitat block mapping and he explained what he did compared to Matt. Discussion about how best to go about protecting the important resources in the habitat blocks, including town plan, zoning, education, land-owner outreach, land conservation. No conclusions were reached other than agreement that a menu of different actions would be best. Stephanie will find the text of Act 171 and send it out. Agreement that it would be helpful to get ecologist Eric Sorensen's input since he lives in Calais and works for the State and is very knowledgeable about the town's natural resources. Matt said that two people in the State Fish & Wildlife Department have been working with towns on implementing Act 171 and will be helpful.
4. Proposed revised shoreland zoning: Stephanie and Noreen attended a Planning Commission meeting at which they provided their comments and asked questions about the proposed shoreland zoning revisions. There was a good discussion with the PC and they were asked to provide their comments

in writing after the meeting. Stephanie and Noreen explained some of the issues, including the positive change that the shoreland district will not end at a road. It came to light that the village district designation in Adamant may extend to far, so that there is insufficient buffer for Adamant Pond. This is also true for the North Calais village district because it goes all the way to Moscow Woods Road along the Pekin Branch with insufficient buffer for the stream. Stephanie discussed her concern that mowing would continued to be allowed right to the water's edge and questioned why this would be allowed especially in light of the State's strong concern about preventing erosion and pollution of the state's rivers and streams and the measures they are requiring towns to take on town roads.

There has been no response yet from the Planning Commission but Stephanie will send her and Noreen's comments for further discussion at the next meeting and perhaps by then the PC will have addressed their comments and questions.

Due to his concern that the proposed regulations require a 50' wide buffer for "named" streams but only 25' wide for "unnamed" streams, and that most the streams in Calais are not named but are nonetheless significant contributors to the named streams and should be similarly protected, Drew met with the PC and proposed that it be changed to "perennial streams as mapped" on a specific USGS map, the same language as now exists in the Town Plan.

5. Other agenda items: The rest of the agenda items were postponed until the next meeting. There was no other business and no public comment,
6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Approved at the August 23, 2018 meeting.