

## Draft

### Calais Conservation Commission Minutes

**Date:** June 5, 2017

**Location:** Calais Town Office

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

**Absent:** Grant Orenstein, Lou Cherry

**Guests:** Jennifer Whitman, Randy Koch, Juanita Nunn

Stephanie called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Green Burials** – Members of the Calais Cemetery Commission discussed with us the various ways that green burial sites could be set up in Calais. They could be in existing cemeteries or separate places, on private or public land. Jennifer had recently visited the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA and described it and showed us pictures of it. The Commission intends to have a presentation for the public in the fall to explain what green burials are and hear people's ideas about creating green burial sites in Calais. The CC members are interested in helping in this effort.
2. **Agenda revisions or additions** – a) Julie explained that the Four Winds Institute runs a program involving volunteers working with children at the Calais School on various nature projects, and they need volunteers. It only involves 2-1/2 to 3 hours a month that includes a monthly training and an hour with the children. Julie has done this and said it's fun and interesting for the children and for the volunteers. Drew said they don't have enough volunteers. Stephanie said now that she knows about it, she'll volunteer.  
b. The Commission agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of each month going forward. Stephanie will let Judy know to put that on the town calendar.
3. **Approve May minutes** - Upon motion of Neal, seconded by Julie, the May minutes were approved, as amended.
4. **Invasive plants in Calais** – The Commission discussed some of the roadside invasive plants in Calais – including wild chervil, goutweed, wild parsnip, and Japanese knotweed - and whether there is some way of timing the mowing to avoid spreading the seeds after the plants have flowered and gone to seed. We realized this would be impossible, as there are patches of each type of plant in different places all over the town. The Commission decided to do an inventory of the roadside invasives, noting when they're flowering, and putting together a database so at least we know where they are. Larry mentioned purple loosestrife as being another plant of concern.

Stephanie had made contact with Mike Bald, an invasive plant expert who had done a presentation in East Montpelier, to see if he would come talk with us. He said he has no time

until September and thought that would be a good time to do this so we could make a plan for the coming year.

In the meantime, the Commission members split up the town into regions and identified the roads they would drive along to identify what invasive plants are growing where.

Richard mentioned that he met with the person who has the bobolink project that we got involved with last year because Richard has bobolinks in his field. We agreed that we'll listen for bobolinks as we drive around identifying the invasive plants.

**Adjournment** – The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:00.

DRAFT