

**Calais Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**12/6/2023 - Calais town office & online**

**Present:** Larry Bush, Mark Brown, Stephanie Kaplan, Neal Maker (recorder), Tracy Sudhalter, Walt Amses

**Absent:** Paul Olander

**Proceedings:**

- *Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.*
- *Larry provided an update on the Hawkins Pond property, which the Northeast Wilderness Trust hopes to conserve. They are working with the seller on terms, and hope to make an offer on the property soon.*
- *Nov 1, 2023 minutes were approved*
- *It was determined that the Commission will continue meeting the first Wednesday of every month in 2024, at 7pm, but there will be no January meeting in 2024.*
- Annual Report:  
Language for the Commission's annual report was discussed, for inclusion in the Town Report that is published ahead of town meeting. Edits were made to a draft that Larry and Stephanie had written, and the amended language was approved.
- Curb Cut Ordinance:  
Stephanie gave an update on proposed changes to the town's curb cut ordinance. After recognizing a need for the ordinance to be updated, to address environmental concerns and allow for greater transparency, the Commission worked closely with the town attorney throughout 2022 and into 2023 to draft a revised version. The outgoing Selectboard strongly supported the proposed revision and passed a resolution urging the incoming Selectboard to finalize and adopt it. Anne Winchester, chair of the new Selectboard, is now bringing it to their policy subcommittee for consideration. The Commission decided to put the issue on the March meeting agenda, to follow up with the Selectboard when there is less going on, after town meeting.
- Education & Outreach:  
The Commission discussed an increasing focus on education and public outreach for the coming year. Invasive plant awareness is one potential area of outreach, and Tracy suggested putting on invasives walks, to show people problem plants and talk about their management. She stressed that planning would need to start early in the new year, so that walks could happen in early spring when many invasives are leafing out. Larry suggested members brainstorm other topics for education and outreach, which could be prioritized at the February meeting.

- *Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.*
- *The next meeting is scheduled for February 7 at 7:00 pm, at the town office and on Zoom.*