

# **CUMBERLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of meeting, December 10, 2009**

**The Cumberland Conservation Commission met on Dec. 10, 2009, at the Arnold Mills Community House, Hillside Road, Cumberland, at 6:30 p.m., with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance were Briscoe Lang, vice chairman-treasurer; Julie Guerin, secretary, John Monaghan, Frank Geary, Mike Scalzi, and Greg Myers.**

**MINUTES: Minutes from both the October and November meetings were approved.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Lang reported that the \$400 payment for mowing town property at the Monastery has not been issued to Mr. Marsalkowski. Commission budget balance remains at \$3,000.**

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Mann Distribution LLC proposal to move its chemical distribution center from Warwick to an existing but vacant site at 1226 Mendon Road was denied.**

**Chairman Gettinger will contact the Director of Planning with a request to keep communication open with the about pending proposals that have a potential environmental impact.**

**OPEN SPACE COMMISSION REPORT: The Emerson property on Tower Hill Road was discussed. Members of the Conservation Commission walked the property with representatives from the state**

Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Cumberland Land Trust to view existing trails. Mr. Geary reported that the town is investigating the possible sale of a piece of property. The Commission generally agreed with his proposal for lot consolidation prior to the sale.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trails:** Mr. Monaghan reported that \$1.1M in federal transportation grant funds are available through the DEM to create new trails and maintain existing trails. The deadline to apply is Feb. 10, 2010. A plan must be in place prior to applying, and it didn't appear that grant dollars are available to assist in planning new trails. Mr. Lang suggested that the trail subcommittee create a concept of a trail route based on available mapping at the end of December. He will coordinate the date and time meet. Mr. Gettinger suggested that the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) be utilized. Mr. Monaghan will contact Mr. Gary Leib in the Planning Dept. for guidance and support.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Franklin Farm:** Mr. Geary reported that planning will begin shortly on next year's lawn and gardens, bee hive, and chicken coop. Security cameras have been installed on the barn and garage.

**Fish Ladders:** Mr. Geary reported that the Coastal Resources Management Council has confirmed that permitting for the first ladders is complete. Trout is being raised in local schools that will be introduced to the Blackstone River in the spring. He is applying for a grant which would finance raising shad in the schools that would also be introduced to the river.

**Cemeteries:** Mr. Scalzi is working in conjunction with the RI Historical Cemetery Commission on a grant available through Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's office that would provide funds for use in cemetery maintenance for a three year period.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Conservation Easements:** Mr. Monaghan, Mr. Lang, and Mrs. Guerin reported on the very informative Conservation Easement Workshop that they attended on Nov. 30, 2009 at the offices of the DEM. The featured speaker walked attendees through the new Conservation Easement Guidance Manual. Copies were provided for all attendees.

**Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace Proposed Ordinance:** Conservation Commission input has been requested from the Planning Department on the draft ordinance. Recommendations included monetary penalties, requiring permits for construction and operation, and timing of use. Mr. Scalzi will compile the commission's input and communicate it to the Planning Department.

**Commission Resignation:** Mr. Geary announced that he will not be requesting reappointment to the Commission for the next three year term. Mr. Gettinger regretfully accepted his resignation effective Jan. 1, 2010, and gratefully acknowledged his two decades of service to the Conservation Commission. Members thanked Frank for sharing a delicious bottle of local wine.

**Commission Reappointment:** Mrs. Guerin will submit her request for reappointment to a three year term after her current term expires on Jan. 30, 2010.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Julie M. Guerin**

**Secretary**