

Minutes of meeting, October 14, 2010

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on Oct., 14, at the Arnold Mills Community House, Abbott Run Valley Road, Cumberland, at 6:30 p.m., with George Gettinger, Chair presiding. In attendance were Julie Guerin, secretary, John Monaghan, Greg Myers and Dick Morrissey. Guests attending were Ann Williams, Cumberland Garden Club, Christina Delage Baza, RI State Dept. of Administration/Division of Planning, and Ed O'Brien, Surveyor.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dr. Gettinger reported that the Commission's budget for the current fiscal year is \$2,500 and still has the full balance.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trails: Ms Delage Baza brought samples of GIS maps with the proposed trails across Cumberland mapped out. She will assist with the actual mapping with GIS equipment and mentioned that the North-South Trail Council may be able to assist us with designs of road crossings, etc.

Mr. O'Brien offered to pull surveys of the Emerson Property when the purchase is complete to tailor the trails to the boundaries of the open

space parcels. He also encouraged the incorporation of history and landmarks into the maps by expanding this project to the community, and offered to organize a subcommittee to design a pamphlet.

Mr. Morrissey noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission can assist with applications for grants and funding. Mr. Monaghan indicated that the Planning Dept. will reapply for RIDEM grants in 2011.

Open Space Commission: Mr. Monaghan reported the closing of the town purchase of the Emerson property on Tower Hill Rd. should be complete within the next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor: A vote was held with unanimous approval for the CCC to support Option 3 of the Management Option Proposals that the National Park Service is considering regarding future funding for the Corridor. Mr. Monaghan will communicate the recommendation to the RI Senators and Representatives.

Earth Day, 2011: Mr. Monaghan reported that the Valley Breeze will support this project by publishing press releases and winners, as well as assisting with judging the entries. Much discussion ensued and it was decided that a separate committee meeting will be held

before the next monthly meeting to develop final plans for the contest.

Facebook: Mr. Meyers raised the concept of having a Commission site on Facebook. The matter was discussed and held for further consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

Monastery Field Mowing: Dr. Gettinger reported that Mr. Lang will be contacting Mr. Marsalkowski to see if the town has contacted him regarding the annual fall mowing of the fields. The commission voted unanimously to allocate \$400 (to be adjusted accordingly) from the budget toward his payment.

High Rock Farm Project: Dr. Gettinger reported that this property is jointly owned by the RIDEM, the town of Cumberland, and the Cumberland Land Trust (CLT). Both the RIDEM and the CLT want to exclude deer and remove invasive plants from certain areas. Mr. Lang and Mr. Monaghan communicated to Ms Karen Saucier, President of the CLT that the Conservation Commission will support their efforts and recommended that she notify the Director of Planning in Cumberland of her plans.

COMMUNICATIONS:

RIACC website: Mr. Monaghan reported that the website redesign is still underway.

Upcoming Events: Dr. Gettinger announced two events sponsored by the CLT. The first is a discussion about the state bond issue for preservation of the old Rocky Point property and luncheon afterward at the Lafayette Lodge in Cumberland on Sat., Oct. 16. The second is a wine tasting fundraiser to be held on Fri., Nov. 5 at the Blackstone Valley Theater in Cumberland.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary