

Minutes of meeting, June 9, 2011

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on June 9 at 6:42pm in Room 4 of the Hayden Center, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd., Cumberland with Briscoe Lang presiding. In attendance were Julie Guerin, Julie Medeiros, Briscoe Lang, Greg Myers, and Mike Scalzi.

MINUTES: A unanimous vote was taken to amend the May minutes to reflect the \$150 donation to the BRWC/FOB to support the Elder Ballou Cemetery maintenance. Mr. Scalzi recused himself from the vote as he is a member of the BRWC/FOB organization.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms Guerin reported that \$41.30 was spent on frames for the winning photo contest entries.

A donation of \$600 toward the Colonial Garden at the Metcalf-Franklin Farm was unanimously approved. Ms Guerin recused herself from the vote as she sits on the board of directors for the Metcalf-Franklin Farm Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Earth Day Photo Contest, 2011: The presentation of the awards at the Town Council meeting on Wed., 5/18 was successful and well-received. Mayor McKee requested that the winning photos be

displayed at the town hall.

Scott Brook Project: Mr. Lang read correspondence from the DEM to the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone (BRWC/FOB) indicating that wetland permits will be exempted for Phases 1-4 of the cleanup project. A meeting was held between Mr. Pailthorpe of the BRWC/FOB and the DEM discussing the impact on freshwater wetlands of the clean up and restoration of the forest. Further consultation with DEM will occur as the project progresses. Scrap metal on the property is being recycled. The town has approved that cash paid for this purpose can be used toward expenses incurred.

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace (OWBF) Ordinance: Mr. Scalzi received a call from Councilwoman Mia Ackerman advising him that no ordinance will be enforceable unless it is a total ban on the furnaces. Discussion ensued with respect to the merits of a total ban versus significant restrictions. The motion below was submitted by Ms Guerin and seconded by Mr. Myers. At the Ordinance Subcommittee meeting on June 13, Mr. Scalzi will present it as the CCC's advisory opinion and recommendation.

“In consideration of the environmental impact on the health and well-being of the residents of Cumberland, and in the absence of an ordinance with enforceable restrictions, the CCC supports a full ban on Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces until such a time at which technology has improved to minimize the emissions of these

furnaces and enforceable federal and/or state mandates have been enacted which the town can then enforce.”

Franklin Farm: Four fields in total have been planted, including two new ones this year, utilizing both manual labor by middle school students and the new farm equipment that was donated this year. A new drip irrigation system has been installed by farm volunteers. Regular twice weekly maintenance begins Thursday, June 9 and will continue through the summer on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5:30pm until dusk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monastery Trails: The scheduled walking tour and discussion of the Monastery trails was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary