

Minutes of meeting, October 13, 2011

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on October 13 at 6:36pm at the Arnold Mills Community House, Hillside Rd., Cumberland with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance were Julie Guerin, Julie Medeiros, Briscoe Lang, Greg Myers, and Mike Scalzi.

Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Dr. Gettinger reported that no expenses have been incurred for the current fiscal year.

New Business

Discussion with Mr. Mike Crowley, Director Cumberland Parks and Recreation Commission – Mr. Morrissey has been in discussions with Mr. Crowley regarding the trails project and extended an invitation to attend the meeting in order to share his knowledge with members on several topics.

- Grants – can be found on the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) website. Many require matching funds. New grant opportunities are emailed by a representative of the DEM to recreation directors across the state.**

- Mowing Monastery Fields – Mr. Morrissey suggested creating a schedule of maintenance and mowing in the Monastery to keep all**

parties informed of expectations on the part of the Town and Mr. Marsalkowski who has mowed the Monastery fields in the past. Ms Guerin offered to obtain the mowing schedule for Franklin Farm to use as a starting point.

- **Relationship with the Cumberland Dept. of Public Works (DPW) –** coordination and communication between the CCC and the DPW has been minimal. Mr. Crowley suggested inviting the new Cumberland DPW Director along with Mr. Crowley to an upcoming meeting to discuss ways to keep each other informed of maintenance, projects, etc.
- **Eagle Scout Projects –** Mr. Crowley works with the Scouts when their projects involve town-owned property. Several scouts are interested in blazing trails, one in the Monastery and one is working on the Warner Trail.

Tour and Walking Discussion of Monastery Trails – several members walked existing Monastery trails on Sat., October 15. Mr. Morrissey presented a draft proposal to update and maintain trails on the Monastery grounds.

CCC Page on the RIACC Website – Mr. Monaghan advised delaying the update because the website currently is not being maintained. He reported that the RIACC annual meeting at the Conservation Summit

will now be longer in order to full address agenda items. Mr. Monaghan also reported that an ad hoc committee has been established with land trust and conservation commission members to review facts surrounding upcoming state legislation on zoning and land use. RIACC also plans to take a more active role in communicating pending legislation that potentially impacts the environment to cities and towns.

Old Business

Photo contest – Dr. Gettinger will contact the Valley Breeze to ask them to partner up again next year. The contest will begin on Earth Day and continue tentatively through the end of May. Two separate divisions are being created for adults and children. Ms Guerin will create a draft calendar for review at the next meeting.

Franklin Farm – Ms Guerin reported that over 38,000 pounds of produce were harvested this year. A Pancake Breakfast fundraiser sponsored b the Masons is being held at Lafayette Lodge in Cumberland on Sat., October 22.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary