



Conservation Commission

George B Gettinger - Chairman

Greg Myers - Secretary

Agustus Uht

Alex Marszalkowski

Briscoe Lang – Vice Chairman

Walter Burke

Timothy Mooney

Minutes of Meeting, January 9, 2014

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on January 9, 2014, at 6:30pm, at the Hayden Center in the Cumberland Public Library, Meeting Room 4, 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island, with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance were Briscoe Lang, Greg Myers, Timothy Mooney, Augustus Uht, and Alex Marszalkowski.

There were no December 2013 minutes to approve.

Mr. Myers was appointed to the position of Secretary of the CCC. No liaison to the Franklin Farm Committee was appointed.

A motion was made to allocate \$250 to renew the CCC's membership to the Cumberland Land Trust. The motion passed unanimously.

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the development of trails at Diamond Hill State Park. Dr. Gettinger, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Uht, and Mr. Burke met with Lisa Primiano at the DEM. Several important things about trailhead and parking sites surfaced during the meeting. (1) The DEM has declared that there will be no trailhead access from West Wrentham Road, as doing so would encroach to heavily on the wetlands there. (2) The Krakow property is now for sale and the state is negotiating for its purchase. This property might help trailhead access from Tower Hill Road, as access there is also impeded by wetlands. (3) John Loranco at the DEM is eyeing the Gifford property as a possible trailhead on Diamond Hill Road, though some agreement about using their land/parking lot would likely have to be reached.

Ms. Primiano also explained that several challenges exist in terms of managing the park. She said she was in charge of acquiring the land, but no one was in charge of planning and developing it; no one was assigned the task of developing a Management Plan and establishing a use for the park. Several months ago, in a public meeting held by DEM, CCC members offered to assist with writing a Management Plan. Now, DEM has a \$100,000 grant from the DOT, with a matching component to be reimbursed by the state, for the development of trails. All members of the CCC were in agreement that having a Management Plan would greatly help in getting the grant money.

What should go into the Management Plan was discussed at length. There is still some question as to who exactly approves the Management Plan. It was discussed whether or not to ask Ms. Primiano what she wants to see in the Management Plan. It was decided that Mr. Lang would commit to making a map with proposed and existing trails, as well as proposed parking area(s), and that Mr. Mooney would finish writing the Management Plan draft since he has some experience in this field, with the goal of being ready to send the draft and trail/parking maps to Ms. Primiano for review and comment next month. Mr. Lang and Mr. Mooney decided they would walk part of the property together Sunday, January 12, at 9:00am.