

Phippsburg Conservation Commission

May 20, 2010

MINUTES

The MEETING was brought TO ORDER.

ATTENDEES

Ellen Winchester, Ronnie Kamphausen, Dana McClean, Cindy Brouwer

Absent: Dot Kelly, Bob Reyes, Gloria Barnes

Our new member, Cindy Brouwer was welcomed.

PROJECT UPDATES

Invasive Species update

- Dana: Milfoil signage
 - The Sportsmen's Club has paid for the first six signs. The Conservation Commission will pay for the next batch.
 - The first signs have been placed at: Center Pond – Hatch Point, Center Pond – Alewife Ladder/Causeway area, Sprague Pond. Other locations are being considered.
- Ellen mentioned that Jo Schuman is going to remain the contact person for:
 - phragmites spraying
 - purple loosestrife beetles
- Ronnie wondered why the Japanese Knotweed on the corner of rt 209 and Parker Head Road had been burned, and thought that might not be a good idea.

Invasive Species TODOS:

- **Ellen will ask Mike if we can put the Invasive Species Booklet on the website.**

Rare Plants update

- Ellen: pink lady's slipper poster
 - The poster was placed on the town website and is being run on the cable channel
 - Cindy suggested that we might want to find ways to reach more people.

Vernal Pools update

- Ellen and Ronnie reported on the third annual VP Field trips to the Dauphin vp and Hillside Cemetery vp. Ronnie suggested we find a new vernal pool location for next year, preferably on the Basin Property where the kids might be able to walk to rather than take the bus.

Vernal Pools TODOS:

- **Ellen is going to try to find time to put together a Slide show for the 5th graders and to run on the cable channel, like last year's.**

Geocache update

- Gloria managed to get all the shopping done for our Geocache supplies.
- Ronnie shared pictures of the waypoint hike.
- Ellen reported on the waypoints hike and the gps mapping.

- Cindy suggested that the Geocache might be a good activity for the Recreation Committee. She wondered what the purpose was of our spending time and money on the Geocache project. Ellen mentioned that it is a way to encourage townspeople to enjoy the Town Land and so be more likely to want to conserve it.

Geocache TODOS:

- **Ellen will contact Anna Little of the Town Lands Committee to confirm that it is ok with them that we improve the BLUE TRAIL.**

Sportsmen's Club update

- Dana gave updates on the latest news including the upcoming Field Day in June. He explained how a major goal of the Sportmen's Club's is to work with landowners to protect their land and at the same time allow hunters access by permission. He said that they are hoping to encourage landowners having No Trespassing signs to convert them to say something like Hunting by Permission Only. They are working directly with landowners to try to find common goals that are achievable and mutually comfortable.

Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency update

- Bob, Dot: where to go from here?

Land Use update

- Gloria and Ellen attended the *MEACC* Conference.

Bulletin Board update

- Ronnie will try to put up some new pictures.

NEW BUSINESS

- We had to postpone election of the new chairperson to next month due to too many absences.
 - We want to avoid having the new chairperson become overwhelmed with the responsibilities.
 - Cindy suggested we come up with a list of the responsibilities of the chair.
- We also want to be sure to begin discussion of "where do we go from here", i.e. what should our goals be for the coming year?
 - Cindy asked what are the most important goals we should focus on? What should we spend our limited time and money on? What would give us the biggest "bang for the buck"?
 - Cindy mentioned that often conservation groups tend to concentrate on the "feel good" goals.
- Cindy suggested that we tackle developing new strategies for getting our conservation messages out.
 - We have been very successful in our efforts to reach the Phippsburg Elementary School students.
 - We could expand our Vernal Pool work to involve townspeople.
 - We might invite experts to give a workshop or talk or panel.
 - We will need to work on coming up with a concentrated message.
- Cindy passed out two handouts which I have attached to the minutes.
 - **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Phippsburg [Email message and link printouts]- 7 pgs**
 - **The Language of Conservation: How to Communicate Effectively to Build Support for Conservation [Research memo] - 11 pgs**

The meeting was ADJOURNED