

**Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**September 18, 2007**

- New member needed
  - Ronnie will be suggested to the Selectmen as a permanent member
- Merry Chapin gave us the update to the Maine School Science Goals
- Ronnie's book, "Butterflies and Moths", is available for use in the school
  - We paid for copies of her Amphibians book for the school library
  - Ed Secksas at the Elementary School interested in having Ronnie do some "Exploratory" Fridays starting tomorrow for four weeks then another session. Could Ronnie take kids out for some sort of Environmental lessons?
  - Ronnie has a bunch of caterpillars. She'll be going back to Connecticut... Could Ronnie stop by the school sometime?
  - She'll take the book to them. It has a unit on Monarchs that is great for Fall nature study.
  - The Conservation Commission will buy some more books for the school.
- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** – discussion of (Note that Comp Plan is on website)
  - **POPULATION**
    - Table P-8 (Merry will get a copy for us) shows population changes so we can be aware of population changes. This is important in relation to other goals.
    - We should keep track of the map of subdivisions, especially in terms of keeping open land. Our land resource brings in people and money. Should be a big part of our mission.
  - **MARINE RESOURCES**
    - *GOAL 6* – oil disposal & sanitary pump out [LOW, ongoing priority]
      - Bob Cummings is involved and could be contacted.
      - Work with New Meadows Watershed project
      - Could contact Shellfish Commission, Harbor Commission for suggestions on how we could all work together.
      - Bath has something available to dispose of waste. No charge. Campground owners might have that info. Ask at Popham Campground and Meadowbrook.
      - Ronnie would be glad to go to the New Meadows meeting.
      - Maybe there's something the kids could do. "Earth-Watchers"
  - **NATURAL RESOURCES**
    - *GOAL 1:*
      - 2. Avoid fragmentation through wildlife corridors
        - Easement on town land adjacent to Ridgewell Preserve
        - Meet Selectmen October 3 and suggest first to find out how to proceed.
        - See town lands management committee?
        - How do we decide what is a corridor?
          - Deer yards, moose, etc.

- Nice to make reports on website.
  - Wildlife corridors
- 4. Buffers, etc.
  - Buffers: ordinances being rewritten. Land Use Ordinance, e.g. resource protection zone # feet building away from
- GOAL 2: Invasive/Alien Species
  - Volunteers to monitor invasive. Maybe lots of adults interested. Jean very much interested. Identify plants. Very careful to deal with private land and misidentification. Kids work with one of us.
  - Bill Emerson put some beetles on purple loosestrife at Totman Cove. Bill Emerson could be contacted. How was it funded?
  - We need to research and make a booklet also post on website.
    - Something of a hard sell for the beauty of loosestrife and bittersweet.
- GOAL 3: Monitor pollution of waterways
  - 1. (water related) Vernal pools
    - Start with our survey on the website next spring.
    - Some people may be concerned about having significant pool near them actually officially labelled as such.
  - Possible information resources:
    - Professor Lea could maybe help out with students
    - Bates College (Morse Mt and Short Ridge House) in lieu of paying full taxes.
    - Dr. Bigelow NSF grant archeological work with schools.
    - Other professors, kids from Bates or Bowdoin.
    - Dennis Unger runs the University College.
    - Could kids from Phippsburg design projects?
    - Hyde School?
    - Morse High School?
  - State Planning Office
    - Can provide Info
    - Has people available to help design projects
  - 2. Disseminate educational materials
    - Mary said she thought we were doing a great job
- GOAL 5: Environmental Awareness Program
  - 1. bi-annual newsletter [HIGH priority]
    - Could be on website
    - Pictures on website. Scan pictures in.
    - Count the hits. Ask Mike how to do this once we start publicizing the website when it is filled out a bit with more resources.

- Contact Joanne Wells' Recreation Newsletter could include our box of info with our url
  - Try to get donations of binoculars for bird watching. Poster at school, town hall, PO. Asking for donations. Restaurants. Land Trust. Poster up at Transfer Station.
- BULLETIN BOARD at school. Ronnie wants to put some stuff up on caterpillars. See principal Sally Brown.
- LIBRARY time. Ronnie will see Laura Phelps.
- 2. website
  - Continue adding resources, survey other CCs' websites.
- 3. Botanical and Wildlife Guide Booklet
  - Adult book. Analysis of plants, insects, geology (Orman Hines on land trust) Town Library ?, birds, marine life (Dick Lamont and Terry Watson conservation work), mammals (Sportsmen's Association), Eric Wallace fisherman contributes to salt water tank at the school. Could put in contact with other fishermen. Two Bowdoin professors have children in our school so he brought sea water.
  - Long term project. Could get a grant. Proctor Wells works with scientists.
  - Maybe professors or high school to help out?
  - Start with a certain area of town or topic
  - Divide up responsibilities (chapters). Can get experts.
    - Ronnie: marine life for all of Phippsburg, start with Hermit Island
    - Jo: with Morris and Cathy Dauphin on birds in schools
    - Ellen: Vernal pools
- 4. Educational projects
- FUTURE LAND USE
  - 3. There is a map somewhere of corridors. See Bill Emerson.
  - 4. encourage options of preserving properties. Maybe list all the possibilities on the website? Work with Land Trust, Sportsman's Association. Could lead walks with kids. Land Trust walks not heavily used by kids.
    - There is a map of significant spaces, etc.
- REGIONAL ISSUES
  - GOAL 2: oil disposal and sanitary pump-out stations
    - Work with New Meadows Watershed Project. Bob Cummings is a good resource. Ronnie has volunteered to work on this.
- Informal Surveys/Contests on website:
  - Vernal pools
  - Tracking in the winter. Walks with families.
  - Locate dens for fox and porcupine

- “Whatever is a priority for you, just start with that!” Merry Chapin
- Selectmen meeting: here is what we are to present:
  - What are we up to?
  - What are we doing?
  - Ideas, plans, hopes?
  - Show website.