

Phippsburg Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 15, 2010

Attendees: Jo Schumann, Jean Perkins, Gloria Barnes, Ellen Winchester, Ronnie Kamphausen, Dana McLean

Minutes

Jean: move minutes accepted.

Gloria: secpmd

Basin Preserve Initiative

Ronnie: group met with selectmen to explain their mission. Needed to have town approval to authorize as town committee so could apply for funds;. That is where we stand. Some questions came up. Nancy Sferra not there; had back surgery. We're moving toward becoming official so have towns backing. Dana had asked question about whether property has to be in one piece. Can be on different site. Conservation educational center on one area and anything else on other. Need to have a workshop first before official.

Jo: great that you are working with them

Ronnie: good people. Have proposal: Phase 1, Phase 2. Gloria will make copies for us to read.

Jo: timeline? When coming along

Dana: still boundary discussions going on, survey, in dispute.

Dana: Bath YMCA need indoor and outdoor spaces for summer camp.

Ronnie asked Francie toller about it

Dana: used to have Camp Davenport for years but have sold that.

Ronnie: adult group also wants to go off somewhere. Francie thought definite interest on the part of YMCA for outings.

Toxic Runoff/Open Space Issues

Ronnie: read what other towns are doing. Jo sent around. I like to learn about easements, how they work. One CC'd mission find where special places are and go about protecting them. Educating people about pesticides and runoff and even light pollution. Do we have a list of properties.

Jo: Land Trust maps show and our maps show all open spaces.

Jean: just says where they were. Big maps are downstairs.

Jo: what is definition of "open space". Does it mean "protected land"

Ronnie: Areas that help us retain the rural character. Falmouth solicited support. 250 acres of unfragmented habitat that should be protected. Started listing the open spaces that are important to me, private land, especially in West Point that are shoreline owned by people that do not have a lot of money. Want to see that maintained as undeveloped area. Other areas too.

Dana: Land Trust pretty much takes care of this.

Jo: Land Trust helps with easements.

Ronnie: Talked with Bob Cummings about the areas I was concerned about and he did not know about them.

Jean: Leila Percy might know about rules and regulations.

Ronnie: Kennebunkport Lawns for Lobsters. People concerned about pesticides seeping into salt water and affecting lobster population. Might we do this? Are we concerned about heavily grassed areas, e.g. Sebasco Estates, what do they use to keep it that way.

Jo: want to talk to them.

Ronnie: what information.

Jean: Contact Kennebunkport and see what they do?

Jo: once you've learned about it could have workshop

Gloria: lakes, ponds, pools

Jo: Rodale has a wonderful system. People Places Plants magazine.

TODO: ronnie will follow up on it with Kennebunk

Sportsmen's Club Winter Field Day

Dana: I was working. Arnold said overwhelming great turnout. 45 youth plus parents. At least 100 with snowshoes, nordic skiing, dogsleds NAVDA was there German Shorthairs. Larry there with falcons. Yesterday a nice article in paper. Lincoln County gazette. Really great.

Ronnie: I was there. It was great.

Dana: 4 month old and on up.

Ronnie: stopped on the way to swimming most things in afternoon I was confused came back at 12:30. Went for the tracking. Conditions not that great. I missed initial presentation. Robert Drewling. A lot of out of towners.

Dana: there are members all over the place: wiscasset, bath, harpswell, etc. 5-10 kids from summer the rest all new faces.

Ronnie: A lot of enthusiasm. Lots of trails behind club to pond. It was amazing. Took lots of people for rides.

Jo: sounds like a great day

Ronnie: what did they do in the morning?

Dana: registration at 9:30 try to start at 10:00. Summer 8:00 to 3:00. Rotate through five events. Shorter hours colder. Start close to noon go with some number of groups. Tracking hound too. Will be doing yearly.

Jo: we could join you with one of the outings

Dana: the trail and property to Fiddler's Reach Road almost to Captain Perry road. Old gocart track. 50 acres

Ronnie's Wednesday Hikes

Jo: we went to top of morse Mt saw a wind spire. Only 35' tall. Three vertical blades in a drum shape. It is supplying electricity for houses. It is very quiet. \$12,000 cost. Tied in with supplemental service. Seems like a suitable thing for a hill.

Jean: nice to see other things besides the big vaned windmills

This year's budget request and article for town report

Dates for town meeting

Jo: Need budget request sheets. Out meeting is on March 2 we go before the meeting. Have to have requests in by then. What about Vernal Pools.

Ronnie: cost cuts we are volunteers

Ellen: TODO: I'll call and try to make an appointment for next week to meet with the principal. Vernal Pools and Exploratory

Jo: decide what we need for that. Last year Ronnie and I published books. Jo has sold about half.

Ronnie: should give expenses for the books I produced.

Jo: we should think about expense that need to be in budget.

TODO: will call to find out what we have left

TODO: article is due March 8 go back over notes and find out what we did.

TODO: Ellen outline of what we did from minutes

Town Meeting is May 4-5 this year.

What to Accomplish in 2010

Jo: what to do:

Vernal Pool again. Ellen

Exploratory Jo and Ronnie.

Bird identification group Jo not too difficult to get small grants from Walmart would need binoculars. Fairly decent low power. Group of 10?

Jean got them through LLBean less than \$30 last spring Jean will google it and see how much.

Ellen: someone was interested

Jean: GPS geocaching. Ellen.

Ronnie: dolphin skeleton. "Close Encounters of the Animal Kind" how to treat animals with respect. Add hunters expertise. From town's perspective.

Thinking about working on that. Preserve their place in town.

Jean: Steve Freeman came with a young drake with a broken wing took to Gray animal farm. State uses him to send out to do trapping.

Bob Reyes: photo book of Phippsburg four seasons, rare endangered plants, book via Shutterfly. Would take photos and put together. Would need help with identifying.

Jo: found list of rare plants in Phippsburg.

Ronnie: mammals, input from hunters

Dana: hunter safety program talks about wildlife conservation. Why the state has the hunting. Would tie in good with what you're talking about.

Ronnie: has an almanac

Signs

Dana: faxing info seeing the lady tomorrow to see what they can incorporate in about like a no parking sign size. They will try to fit the same idea but a smaller. Inspect your boat. Remove all plants from blah blah blah. Same sign as the big one but smaller and more specific to Phippsburg. Help protect. She will stop and see me tomorrow. Email me and I'll email it out. Will talk to Sportsmen's Club. Was talking to Mark Alexander about where. Not just the big boats. Even when they are trapping. Silver Lake also. Sprague too maybe. Any body of water. Will work on raising money at club. Winnegance also. Also Sebasco. Price quote and go from there. Meetinghouse Pond too.

Gloria: kayaking place at Winnegance rent elsewhere.

Jean: lots of boats into Mill Pond

Dana: any pond with carry in spots. Once we get the signs made. Will send sign plan via email.

February CC long and short term goals

Spelled out by comprehensive plan set out for us

Present cases for setbacks and buffers

Ordinances

Town lands identified

Map out existing wildlife corridors inland fish and wildlife

Phippsburg stream survey

Land trust what to conserve

Identify goals for the next 10 years

Open spaces – what is meant by this?

Monitor and prevent invasive species

Ponds

Monitor pollution of vernal pools, some training in monitoring

Jr conservation committee

Pamphlets

Minimize damage to natural areas

Best mgt practices

Link on town website

Conservation newsletter

Booklet: original idea each person take a subject but much more expensive. If a single book it's got to be black and white and drawings. We could do something like that but a big project!

Mailing with the Rec committee

Materials on open areas

Records of meetings

Annual report

Positions on issues to town

Encourage public participation sportsmen's club

Conservation education

Conduct research

Adjourn