

MINUTES OF ST. GEORGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, JAN. 4, 2007

PRESENT: Coggeshall, Duncan, Elfast, Ellis (chair), Hewitt

Excused: Bracy

Others: J. Bates, J. Falla, A. Siegenthaler, J. Westervelt

AGENDA: Additions; Resignation, Jan Wirth.
Community Film Series.

MINUTES: Moved, seconded, approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Town Forest . A bridge has been built over the brook. It consists of a single cedar sawn in two parts. February's walk will be;

Sunday February 4 at noon. "Snow Walk" TBA. Watch bulletin boards.

2. Fort Point. On Dec. 22 members of the CC and some friends trimmed and cleared a path as approved by the selectmen. It runs between points A and point J on the map submitted for consideration.

Next approval is needed to bridge the stream between Points B and D. John Falla will see which approvals are needed. (DEP, Planning board, Selectmen?)

NEW BUSINESS.

Items 1-7 were deferred in the interest of time.

8. Annette? A. Naegle is away but sent an email which anticipated the requisite maps by Dec. 29. They have not yet arrived.

9. Resignation. Jan Wirth's letter of resignation was read and accepted with regrets. We will email minutes to her with hopes she will be able to rejoin us in future. Thank you for your help and energy, Jan. It was recommended we review officers, terms, and recruitment at our next meeting.

10. Winter Film Series. Jim Westervelt will ask the Comprehensive Planning Committee for their support in sponsoring the series. Anita Siegenthaler circulated a draft of the flier, and Jean Hewitt will ask Jane La Fleur of Friends of Midcoast Maine if she will attend or moderate the series.

Thursday January 25. "Growing Together, Smart Growth and Community Change".

Thursday, February 22. "Livable Landscapes, by Choice or by Chance"

Thursday, March 22. "Creating Open Space Networks..."

11. Google Earth. CC adjourned to the Fire House conference room where for an hour, with the help of John Falla and Google Earth, we explored St. George's wetlands from a

distance of approx. 500 meters. We were able to clearly see the interconnectedness of various wet areas, and by checking elevations, could also read watersheds and water flow toward the sea.

With this technology we can pinpoint wetland areas and their appropriate setbacks with great accuracy. Overlay maps showing habitat, property lines, and conserved areas etc. are due during 2007. It is also easily possible to customize the maps with our own notations re: seasonal and other changes. We saw this as a wonderfully helpful tool for completing a natural resource inventory; for designating critical wildlife areas; shore land Zoning; and in developing appropriate guidelines for land owners.

12. Next Meeting. February 1, 2007. 7:30 am. Downstairs in the Town Office.

Notes.

*Our condolences to Gayle Elfast on her mothers passing.

*Jan 16, reminder for anyone interested...Maine Association of Conservation Commissions focus group, Rockport Town Hall 7-8:30 pm.

*Feb 13, public hearing...shore land Zoning, Town Office

*Mike Mullen DEP, re maps for shorebird habitat.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec'y)

MINUTES OF ST. GEORGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, FEB. 1, ,2007

PRESENT; Ellis, Duncan, Elfast, Coggeshall, Hewitt

EXCUSED: Bracy

OTHERS; John Falla, Anita Siegenthaler, Toni Small

AGENDA: Add items 11 and 12.

MINUTES: from Jan. 4, Unanimously approved

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Town Forest .

Discussed plans and publicity for a walk in the Town forest on Sunday Feb. 4, 2006.

2. Fort Point.

In order to construct a foot bridge over the stream John Falla reported that a site plan with specific details must be submitted to both the DEP and to the Planning Board for their approvals.

3. Signs.

The CC will prepare recommendations, samples, and descriptions of several different styles of signs which can be used in St. George. For example, we might use one format to introduce sites like the Town Forest and Ft. Point where historic information and/or explanations are needed; another format will show trail heads, simple trail markers are appropriate too. A subcommittee (Elast, Coggeshall, Hewitt, Ellis) volunteered to research and draft recommendations and to review them with the CC. at our next meeting.

4. Maps from GRLT. Maps still have not arrived. Duke will Contact GRLT.

NEW BUSINESS.

Items 1-7 were deferred in the interest of time.

8. Maine Association of Conservation Commissions.

Duke attended a meeting convened by Bob Shafto in Rockport whose purpose was to see if Conservation Commissions in Maine would like to re-convene a state wide Commission to help local CC's with training for new members and share information on a regional or statewide basis. Our CC agreed this is a good idea, especially with regard to training and certification of member volunteers. We agreed unanimously to support the effort. The secretary was asked to write a letter of support and to send copies to the Selectmen.

9. Jan. 25th Film on Building Consensus.

The film was attended by a number of townspeople who participated afterward in a lively discussion led by Jane LaFleur. The evening was complicated by problems in synchronizing video and audio portions of the film. John Falla suspects this may have been due to an older laptop being used to project the video. Before the next event we will test a newer laptop. Anita Siegenthaler volunteered to follow-up.

10. Planning Board Packets.

For the second time this year CC members agreed it would foster cooperation and save time if the CC were to receive a copy of the same agenda packet which is distributed to the Planning Board in advance of the PB's meeting. We requested this in a letter to the Planning Board in early June 2007. It was attached to our recommendations regarding the RV park in Port Clyde. As follows;

*“ The Conservation Commission, in order to do its job of conducting research and advising the town on natural resource issues, requires early and timely notice on applications coming before the Planning Board. Where multiple dwelling units are involved this is especially important. **To address this oversight we ask that the chairman of the Conservation Commission be added to the regular list of persons receiving copies of materials submitted to the planning board.**”*

There has been no response to date.

MOVED, That the Chair of the Conservation Commission be included on the list of recipients who receive agenda packets prior to Planning Board meetings. Seconded. Approved Unanimously. Secretary will follow up.

11. Tennis Court Budget

Gayle Elfast noted that funds to be used for draining the ball field do not take into account the future of the Tennis Courts which have actually been damaged by ball field drainage. In addition, monies which used to be in the Tennis court budget have been removed. She asked why this has happened since it is clear that Tennis courts have to be drained and completely rebuilt. J. Falla said this is not the end of the issue and it can be changed at the town meeting.

We noted that this is a wetland issue since draining the ball fields and adjacent Courts directly impacts the wetland at head of cove in Tenants Harbor. Although private money is being sought to fix the Courts, almost none has been raised. It seems clear that the future of playing fields and of tennis courts are closely tied to each other.

12. Terms of office and Retreat.

Voting members of the CC hold staggered 3 year terms which run from May 1 to April 30 each year. Alternates' terms run for one year. There is currently one vacant seat for an alternate member. At the beginning of the next 'year' there will also be a vacant voting seat.

Retreat. The CC schedules a facilitated retreat every two or three years to project future steps. In initial discussion Gayle Elfast suggested John Rosenblum might be an excellent choice for moderator as he is both knowledgeable about St. George and a

nationally recognized leader in his field. We asked Gayle to find out whether Mr. Rosenblum will be able to do this for us.

Jean Hewitt asked if, in the interest of promoting consensus and building new avenues for communication, we should to ask whether other committees of St. George would consider it useful to jointly consider the town's future. No further action at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec'y)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION. Minutes of March 1, 2007

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS, Coggeshall, Duncan, Elfast, Ellis (Chair), Hewitt.

OTHERS; Annette Naegel, Lee Cote.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA;

Talk about the 2006 budget

Policies and procedures for Conservation Commission

MINUTES FROM FEB. Approved as submitted

OLD BUSINESS: Plan to address items 2,3, 1, in that order.

2.) LD 761 Tactics for Friday.

The hearing for LD 761 is likely be cancelled because of weather. Those intending to go should meet at the town office at 8:30 a.m. Or call Peggy at the town office. She will know what is happening.

3.) Maps: Annette presented maps of St. George' six most extensive wetlands complete with property lines. The maps were prepared by Paul Hoffman of Sheepscott Valley Conservation Association. Linda Duncan will write to thank him. We also thank Annette for her good work.

Annette described the process by which the maps were created.

Interconnected wetlands systems are clearly seen here, as are related drainage areas and the pour points for each wetland into the ocean. Because of the lot lines it easy to see which owners abut each wetland. We will focus on The Marsh and Ponderosa wetland for educational purposes; the idea is to help landowners understand the drainage system for their property, where waters come from and where they go. During March and April the CC will schedule workshops in the "CC corner" of the basement during Town Office evening hours. We expect to develop a format for presenting wetland drainage information, and for answering questions which are likely to arise.

In discussing the 250' shore land zoning areas, point was made that those areas are designated by the NRPA (Natural Resource Protection Agency) as State resources (7 of them) which should be protected. Municipalities define their own regulations for protection of these resources. The regs are modeled on the State's standard.

Task; talk to Jim Murphy about owner/lot/ID lists.

1) Subcommittee on Signs.

Joss will schedule an appointment for us to meet Peter Achorn on March 8th at his shop to discuss cost, format and design of signs. Jean has application forms from the State for road signs. The town Planning Board has clearly defined standards for signs on private property; but standards do not exist for signs on town property. We reviewed GRLT policies regarding use of their trails and

related signs. The State has been asked if there are requirements for placing informational signs at Fort St. George. They will get back to us.

NEW BUSINESS

8.) Maine Association of Conservation Commissions.

Duke reported that the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions has been re-incorporated, the former 501C3 having lapsed. Bob Shafto of Falmouth is one incorporator and Paul Austin (Scarborough's CC chair) is the other. A grant request has been submitted for funds receivable this June. Board members are being identified; the board will ultimately have 60% CC leaders and 40% people with statewide environmental perspective and/or significant stakeholders. A web URL is reserved [www.MEACC.net]. Bob Shafto wrote..."I am excited about the opportunity to rebuild MAC into a strong statewide organization, able to support the work of existing commissions and to get new commissions organized in many more Maine communities."

9.) May 5th Annual Town clean-up day.

Reminder: time for posting notice of the annual cleanup in the next newsletter.

Adjourned. **Next meeting, Thursday March 8. Time and location to be determined by J. Coggeshall.**

Respectfully submitted. J. Hewitt (Secretary)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2007.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS, Coggeshall, Elfast, Ellis (Chair), Hewitt
OTHERS; A. Siegenthaler, J. Bates, J. Falla (briefly)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA; New Business items 3 and 4.

MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2007. APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

OLD BUSINESS;

1. Report from sign committee. Noted that the committee met with Peter Achorn in his studio and will submit format and content to him for price estimates. Scheduled workshop session to specify sign format on Wednesday April 25, in the town office from 4-6 p.m.

2.LD-761. Any new development? Best guess is that it won't pass this year.

3. Organize roadside town-wide cleanup.

Clean up is scheduled for Saturday May 5, from 8-12 noon. Rain date the following Saturday May 12.

St. George Days Committee has scheduled a fund raising breakfast in conjunction with the Clean-up. CC members pleased with this announcement and delighted to collaborate. Beth Smith from the St George Days Committee (and who works in the town office) will serve as liaison.

This year supplies and sign ups sheets will be found in front of the Town Office lobby. Breakfast will be in the large meeting room. PLEASE NOTE: SEPARATE CAT LITTER BUCKETS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR BOTTLES AND OTHER GLASS. THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE AS WELL A RECYCLING ONE. THANK YOU.

John Falla will provide an enlarged map of the town's roads to help people chose their assignments and he will include notice on the back page of the next Town Newsletter regarding details of Spring Clean-up and St. George Days breakfast.

Linda Duncan is asked to contact The Balduc Correction Center to see if Prisoners will provide clean up on Route #131 from the Town Line to Route #73 intersection, and then along Route #73 back to the S. Thomaston town line. Linda will also take care of small fliers, and hand outs

Gayle Elfast to POST larger notices in public places.

Sign up sheets will be located **town office** from April 30th for people to select their cleanup areas.

Will there be amnesty for tires and other items this year? Gayle to Check with Tim Polky

4. Summarize the film series. Are there proposals to be made? Where do we go from here?

The March 22 film focused on open space planning and implementation of ordinances which permit developers to achieve their maximum density (if they want to) in an attractive and aesthetically pleasing way. Film was enthusiastically received by the entire audience of about 25 people. All of them voted “Yes” to the question, “If we could have these ordinances in our community would you be in favor of it?”

A sign up sheet for “Open Spaces Planning Mailing List” was circulated. Those who signed up are now included in the circulation of these minutes. Please email Jean Hewitt Hewitt@midcoast.com if you would like to be removed from his list, or added.

Friends of Midcoast Maine, [FOMM] was extremely helpful in providing a moderator, visual aides and consultation for the film series. CC wants to support this organization. We believe the town will benefit from further consultation and save time as well

MOTION: (Elfast) That we appropriate \$100.00 out of the Conservation Commission budget to cover basic municipal membership in the Friends of Midcoast Maine organization. Seconded. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

A. Siegenthaler circulated copies of conservation planning ordinances which have been adopted, or are under consideration in other Maine towns.(Bowdoinham, Falmouth, Freeport). The full language of these ordinances can be converted to a DVD, and is available from Jane LaFleur, Director, FOMM.

We recognize this material relates directly the task of our Planning Board.

MOVED: (Ellis) That we make copies of the of open space ordinance language and the film series (as DVD’s), for both the Town Office and the library. Seconded. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Joss Coggeshall will see Mark Shapiro about the cost of doing this.

5. Q. Where was everyone for the Wednesday evening work session on wetlands? A. SNAFU...reschedule to April 24.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Should the Town of St. George establish an Energy and Climate Committee?
Other towns are beginning to create groups like this to counteract the lack of
initiative from the Federal Government.

This suggestion originated with the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement adopted at the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors. Towns may designate a committee to assist the town government and its citizens to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions....a major contributor to climate change. The initiative allows towns to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives [ICLEA} which provides technical support, training and education. Membership is \$600.00 and fees are usually paid from excise taxes since these funds come mostly from petroleum burning vehicles. There being no disagreement about whether this is important, we discussed means of becoming pro active as a town, in conserving energy, and raising the level of interest.

Joss pointed out greatest savings are made from energy conservation up front, during the planning process. We agreed for fact finding purposes, and to bring attention to the issue, to contact CMP about energy assessments, and look into cost effectiveness of solar powered street lights.

2.Toni Small was unable to attend today. Deferred until next meeting.

3. Lamoine, Maine. Aquifer study and Grant funds to CC. Discussion deferred in the interest of time.

4. Maine Land Conservation Conference, 2007. The conference in May sponsored by Maine Coast Heritage Trust will provide updated information on state wide conservation activities, and a worthwhile opportunity for networking.

**MOTION: (Coggeshall) That the CC designate \$100.00 to underwrite the cost of the CC chair attending this conference. SECONDED.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

I am sorry this is so long...but it's the only way I could do it.
Respectfully Submitted, Jean Hewitt, (Sec'y.)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2007

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS, Coggeshall, Duncan, Elfast, Ellis (chair), and Hewitt.

OTHERS: J. Falla, J. Bates

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA;

Discussed possibility of designating a third alternate voting member since Skip, and now Toni, cannot guarantee their attendance due to their work schedules. John will bring it up with the Selectmen.

Hewitt has announcements...deferred till end of meeting.

MINUTES: Approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS.

Signs, format to present to selectmen. Brandon Curran of Appleton has bid \$300.00 each to construct two kiosks, less the routing for letters. He builds signs for GRLT, knows the specs. George Emery cannot beat that price. Road signs; Joss will have a price from Peter Achorn by Monday (5/7) and Duke will get a second estimate. John Falla will add road sign approvals to Monday's selectmen's' schedule.

Roadside Cleanup May 5. Ready to go. Posters are up, ads in Free Press, bags in John's office; Gayle will pick up plastic buckets for glass. Sign up sheet now in the town office and St. George Days breakfast begins 7 am. Sat.

Wednesday evening work session, May 23. All are invited. CC meets in town office basement 4-6 p.m. To discuss; a.) curriculum for The Marsh Wetland, b.) Presentation for World Oceans Day, June 8, at Jackson Memorial Library.

NEW BUSINESS

RE: Energy and climate activities. Joss cited numerous sources of renewable energy. Conserving "up front" gets the greatest savings (Insulation, energy efficient machines, planning). An important first step is 'energy audit' to find out where the energy costs are. (As true for a home as for a municipality). CMP does energy audits, by request, to determine how the greatest savings can most economically be made. A number of Maine towns now have Energy and Climate Committees to encourage savings at the municipal level. CC agreed that responsibility for helping to educate St. George about appropriate energy saving activities falls within our charge.

Several starting points were considered; street lights... highly subjective, depends what you are used to; rebates for renewable energy, requires a licensed installer; organize an "E" tour to demonstrate local efforts such as, people living "off the grid", use of photovoltaics to produce electricity, vacuum tubes for heating water, energy star appliances, metal roof to capture heat as Lyman

Morse now does. Other ideas included; Duke's suggestion of a **St. George Energy Independence Day**, possibly as part of St. George Days. An energy-saving unit (CC and others) marching in Memorial Day parade to bring attention to what individuals can do to save energy and/or reduce green house gasses. We need to know more about who is actively saving energy in St. George.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

1. NEMO training in Hallowell. Duke will attend both days (May 15, 17) and has seven seats in his van.
2. Dave Schmanska invited the CC to a presentation on May 17th at 6 pm in the town office to hear Willow Rowe from Coastal Enterprises Inc. She will talk about funding mechanisms for a pilot project in coastal management. Subject is relevant to working waterfronts and to the conservation committee.
3. World Oceans Day. Friday, June 8, 12-2 pm and 3-4 pm at JMLibrary.
4. CC Workshop Wed. May 23, 4-6 pm, town office.
5. Next CC meeting; Wednesday morning June 6, 7:30 in town office.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec'y)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2007

PRESENT: Voting members; Coggeshall, Duncan, Elfast, Ellis (chair), Hewitt.
Alternates; Bracy, Small.
Others; Lee Cote, John Falla, Francine LaPorte, Anita Siegenthaler.

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA.

1. Jean Hewitt circulated a letter requesting the support of the Conservation Commission for efforts of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative (MCPI). This is a coalition of over 70 organizations whose purpose is to...” help lead strategic coastal land conservation across Maine.” They have developed a 2 year conservation framework that outlines actions to enhance the capacity of mains CCs to preserve the richness and unique character of our coast. Organizations endorsing this initiative are invited to participate in setting priorities for conservation and to develop relationships with other supporting organizations as well as becoming eligible for project grants and MCPI assistance. There is no fee. After brief discussion it was

MOVED. That the CC submit a letter to the MCPI in support of their collective effort.
Seconded. Unanimously approved. Delbert Ellis will sign the letter.

MINUTES of May 3, 2007 were accepted as submitted.

TASK LIST. CC Explored Eagle and Caldwell Islands on Friday, June 1. Eagle Island is noted for its killick stones but never having seen one, and not knowing what we were looking for, we were unable to find them. Bill Marshall has offered to show them to Joss in the near future. Caldwell, although it is in private hands, has been carefully preserved in its natural state.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wednesday evening work sessions. In preparation for Energy Independence Day the CC will meet in the town offices on Wed. June 13 and 20 from 4-6 pm; and then on Thurs June 28 from 4-6 pm at 107 Barter’s Point Rd. in the home of Gayle Elfast.

2. Update on Signs. Applications have been submitted to the town Office for signature and checks for a total of \$30.00. Town to forward it to the DOT for approval. After that road signs will be ordered for both Town Forest and Fort Point. Construction has been ordered for two kiosks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Affordable Housing. Toni Small reported on MISCA, the Monhegan Island Sustainable Community Association which was incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 in June of 2002. It’s purpose is to protect the island’s working community from rising housing prices by acquiring winterized residential property by purchase or gift and selling the houses to islanders at a cost of about one-half the estimated value of the land. The land

itself remains in the land trust and is leased back to new property owners. Appreciation on the houses is limited by a covenant on the deed. The goal is to acquire 6-10 houses over the next 10-15 years. The houses are available to voting residents of Monhegan who are at least 22 years of age, have their primary employment on the island and have lived there for at least four years. Literature was also distributed. This trust is modeled one in Martha's Vineyard. Google Land trust for more information.

2. Collaboration with Herring Gut and Jackson Library for World Ocean's Day. The CC will provide a tri-fold poster describing the Town Forest and Fort Point as well as a copy of the map of St George watersheds and wetlands. Both Duke and Jean will participate in the event. St George students are invited to the library to learn from Herring Gut students about their Ocean related projects. ...and about conservation efforts to prevent pollution of the worlds oceans.

3. "Coastal Choices". A movie entitled "Coastal Choices" is available to anyone at the Jackson Memorial Library. It tells the conservation history of five towns in Maine including Monhegan, York , Lubec, Duck trap and one more.

4. Build-out Analysis. Jane LaFleur of Friends of Midcoast Maine is preparing a build out analysis of St. George. This is a mapping project which when completed will show the number of residential units in 1970 compared to those of 2007. It will graphically demonstrate the direction and intensity of residential growth in St. George.

The build-out analysis triggered a discussion of cluster vs. high density housing, The following points were made:

- *It has been repeatedly demonstrated that cluster housing and its supportive infrastructure is much less expensive to build than high density units, which will certainly require us eventually to install a municipal sewer system.

- *Clusters when properly done are more attractive, preserve open space, and sell more quickly.

- *Availability of water and sewer may eventually determine of how much development the peninsula can sustain.

- *St. George Subdivision Ordinance is currently up for review. Four people have volunteered to help define changes to that ordinance which will promote open space development. They are Francine LaPorte, Kate Hewlett, Jack and Sonia Robertson and Roy Statz. Francine will contact Kate Hewlett (planning board member) regarding how best to proceed.

'Friends of Midcoast' has not charged the CC for their work. Several people (Anita, Duke, Gayle) reiterated that although the CC approved joining Friends of Midcoast as a municipal member (for \$100.00), that membership fee has not been paid. Lee Cote volunteered to put the subject on the selectmen's budget for 6/11/07.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec'y)

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 5, 7:30 AM IN THE TOWN OFFICE .

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF JULY 5, 2007

PRESENT; Voting members; Coggeshall, Ellis, Elfast, Duncan, Hewitt
Alternates, Small & Bracy excused.

Others: Chris Leavitt, John Falla (briefly to excuse himself)

AGENDA; deferred

MINUTES; Approvals deferred.

OLD BUSINESS;

1. Kayak inspection of the marsh rescheduled for Tuesday July 10. We will meet at Wileys Corner Grange to fix location of Fort Point parking signs, then proceed to town Marsh.

2. Signs. Work on kiosks has been delayed. Not clear whether we have the go-ahead to proceed with construction of State approved road signs. Labels on kiosks will read, "St. George Town Forest", and "Historic Fort Point".

3. St. George Energy Independence Day. Sunday August 19, 2007. Fourteen potential tour hosts have been identified. We will send each one a questionnaire and contact them shortly thereafter to complete the questionnaire; view the premises, determine whether a docent or parking assistant will be required on August 19.

Early publicity arrangements will include a table at the St. George Days book fair with information on Fort Point and Town Forest, A prominent yellow sign, or sandwich board will advertise energy independence day. Self completion questionnaires will heighten awareness of re energy saving activities.

We will meet for planning workshops on Wednesdays July 11 and July 21 in the town office from 4-6 pm.

4. Follow-up on bush-hogging in shoreland zone in Martinsville, Mosquito point. Chris Leavitt reviewed the procedure for investigating such complaints and said he was working closely with the DEP with whom the initial complaint was filed.

Leavitt also reviewed new cutting restrictions and replanting requirements within the shoreland and 75' buffer zones.

Next Conservation Commission meeting 7:30 am Thursday August 2, 2007

Adjourned 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted. Jean Hewitt {Sec'y}

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUG 2, 2007

PRESENT; Voting members; Coggeshall, Duncan, Ellis, Elfast, ,Hewitt
Alternates, Small, Bracy excused.
Others: John Falla

MINUTES; Minutes of June 3, 2007. Accepted as written. Moved, Carried unanimously.
Minutes of July 5, 2007. Accepted as written. Moved, carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS;

Signs: No further word from Brandan Curran on sign construction. Duke will follow-up.

Town Forest: In the near future we should schedule another hike and produce a trail map for the Kiosk.

Fort Point: Joss reported that the trail is open and in pretty good shape. We need a map for this too.

The Marsh: CC members kayaked the lower part of the marsh on July 10. We did not portage due to a couple of hundred feet of deeply submerged muck. Decided to access the upper marsh from its other side at a later date. The water table looked to have fallen a couple feet subsequent to removal of the beaver dam at the outlet. There was some accumulated debris and garbage.

Energy Independence Day (EID) plans for Sunday afternoon, August 19.

TENT: discussed possible sources for tents including the Firemen's Association (Tim Polky), one or several smaller tents similar to one near the tennis courts (Wayne Judkins), private sources like the Smiths, and Party Fundamentals for a rented unit. Linda Duncan will follow up on this. Tent size will depend on how many exhibitors we have, and on the cost.

EXHIBITORS: Representatives of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, electric or hybrid autos, and various energy saving devices are invited. Contractors, home fabricators, and installers are also invited. Information on planning for energy efficient homes using siting, insulation, and "green" materials will also be available

SIGNS: Gayle and Bruce Elfast will produce yellow and brown wooden signs for the tour. Numbered, foot square staked signs will be located at tour host driveways. A couple of larger signs advertising Energy Independence Day (similar to those advertising Sunday Flea Markets at the Transfer Station) will be placed appropriately. Gayle and Jean will make rounds to specify placement and arrow direction this coming week.

PRESS NOTICES: will be sent to Free Press and Courier next week.

LITERATURE: A pamphlet which includes a brief description of each site on the tour, with a tour map and directions will be drafted and reviewed by the CC on Wed. Aug 8. It should go to print immediately after that.

We hope to prepare some information (as "for dummies) to help people calculate what amount and type of alternative energy might suit their situation.

Some Tour hosts have already prepared detailed written descriptions of their installations. These will be available at the starting point and at individual homes

OPERATION: Exhibitors will be asked to show up at noon (Aug 19) and be set up by 12:30 so that early birds can get their tour info and decide where to go. Exhibitors may leave by 3 pm.

A sign up sheet will be provided for persons wanting more information about specific sites or exhibitors.

We hope to have a "Q and A" booth to answer casual questions people may have about doing their own solar installation. Joss will contact Paul Cote about installer/contractors who would be available to answer questions.

Carpooling to the various sites will be encouraged to save fuel, and because some homes have very limited parking. Skip Bracy is in charge of planning for parking.

Volunteers are welcome and can be helpful in setting up at the town office and at certain sites. Please call Jean Hewitt 372-8114 if you would like to volunteer.

Adjourned at 8:45 am.

NEXT MEETING IS A WORKSHOP ON THE PAMPHLET. WED 8/8/07 4-6 PM.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 7:30 AM

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (sec'y)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES - NOVEMBER 1, 2007.

PRESENT: Bracy, Duncan, Ellis, Elfast, Hewitt, Small. Excused, Coggeshall. OTHERS: Carolyn Conner, Georgie Davis of Friends of St. George (FOStG), Lee Cote, Chris Leavitt, Tim Polky.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Gayle informed us we should not walk Dr. Weaver's property due to beaver action and flooding.

MINUTES: Accepted with the changes as submitted.

Friends of St. George explained the "*Neighborhood Access Paths*" project for St. George township. It is modeled on GRLT's Highland Path and sealed, as is the Highland Path, with a handshake between landowner and FOStG. The purpose is to provide access to the shore or to fresh water ponds for the enjoyment of birdwatchers, hikers, fisher people, meditators and perhaps boaters with canoes or kayaks. Access can be withdrawn by the landowner by simply canceling the permission.

Because of the Maine Landowners Liability legislation dating back to 1995, landowners are held harmless for injuries incurred by people using their land with permission. John Shea is the first landowner to offer the public a walking path to the shore across his land. Linda Welsh and others have also indicated they will participate in the access paths project. Fogarty Corner Road will be included as an access path.

FOStG will prepare maps with St. George's hiking trails and Neighborhood Access Paths. Trail markers are envisioned with logos in the form of waves or of pine trees to show whether the trail accesses water or woodlands.

Members of the CC thanked Friends of St. George for this report and we are interested in collaborating with them to provide information for maps and trail markers.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Coming walks talks and videos. Together with members of FOStG winter sessions about "Conservation on the Coast" are set for Jan. 17, Feb. 28, and March 20, 2008. Format and speakers are not yet confirmed. Duke will work with FOStG to finalize these agendas. Proposed topics are listed below.

- **January 17, 2008.** "Land Preservation, the Monhegan Model" and its' possible applications for St. George. There is a film and we hope Doug Boynton will agree to speak. Toni will invite him.
- **February 28, 2008.** Guidelines for Shore and wetland access. Preview of the revised and digitalized town tax maps and how they can help with wetland conservation (with examples).
- **March 20, 2008.** We will invite Sherm Hoyt and others to talk about clamming and issues related to conservation of land, clam flats and water front.

2. Trail Stewards. No further progress.

3. Second Beach revisited. Duke will continue his discussion with Joan Hall re: access to Second Beach

4. Wetlands Mapping. CC members Coggeshall, Duncan, Elfast, Ellis, Hewitt with Chris Leavitt walked the upland edge of part of the Ridge Road bog with parking permission from Hedgerow. Again we had copies of the new detailed tax maps and were able to plainly see the possible 250' setback protection area for shoreland zoning as well as the bogs upland edge. Chris estimates the open water part of the bog to be between 12-16 Acres which would constitute a significant wetland. Possibly this should be so designated but we will refer that question to Tim Polky.

5. Financial Status of CC. The CC has indicated to both Friends of Midcoast Maine and to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions that we will support their organizations with membership or a contribution. To move forward we need an accounting from the Town re how much of our \$500.00 budget has been spent. Jean will ask the town manager again for an accounting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kiosks at Town Forest and Fort Point. to finalize wording and content for kiosk signs the **CC will have a workshop session Wednesday afternoon November 14, in the Town Office, 4-6 p.m.** Please bring examples of content. Chris has offered use of the town's laminator.

2. Meeting of Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. Duke said an e-mail of the agenda was sent to all CC members; he and Joss plan to attend their next meeting this Thursday in Lincolnville.

3. November Town Forest Trail Walk. A walk titled "**The MAD Law of Ecology**" will be led by Les Hyde. It meets at 1 p.m. on Sunday November 25. Linda will prepare notices for local businesses and post offices. Jean will alert the press calendars.

NEXT CC MEETING will be on Thursday December 6, 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, J. Hewitt (Sec'y.)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2007.

PRESENT: Duncan, Ellis (chair), Small, Bracy, Hewitt.

EXCUSED: Elfast, Coggeshall.

OTHERS: John Falla, Lee Cote, Jack Bates, Anita Siegenthaler.

AGENDA: Add items #4-10 under new business.

MINUTES: Accepted as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wetlands. CC members and Chris Leavitt walked the pond and associated wetland near jct. of Ridge Rd. and Rt.#131. Again we found the new tax maps to accurately depict limits of these wetlands. CC subsequently met with Tim Polky (11/14) to talk about the town having unforested wetlands larger than 10 acres which are not designated as Natural Resource Protection under Shoreland Zoning. They should be so designated according to state and local guidelines. Tim pointed out that until recently the town has not had an accurate means of determining where such wetlands are, and they didn't know if the revised GPS tax maps would be up to the task.

John Falla added that since our last meeting five or six more areas have been identified which clearly should be classified as natural resource protection districts (NRPD's). The issue will be brought before the town at the annual meeting next March.

We considered the advantages and disadvantages to the landowner and to the town of designating additional NRPDs. Under shoreland zoning, existing structures may be classed as Marine Residential which essentially "grandfathers" them as they are.

The CC supports the creation of any additional NRPDs that will be designated in keeping with state and local guidelines.

2. Snow Shoe/Tracking Walk. The next Town Forest event will be a "Tracking Walk" on Sunday, January 20, 2008. Interested hikers should meet at the Town Forest Kiosk on Kinney Woods Road at 1:00 pm. Probable leader of the walk will be Tanglewood's tracking specialist. Call Duke for more information (596-6569).

Toni recommended that information about walks be in the school newsletter as it would be great to have more kids and families on these walks. Duke will follow-up with sign makers (who have moved to Belfast) to find out why we have not received the road signs for Town Forest and Fort Point.

3. Second Beach. No action yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kiosks, printed material . Estimated budget has been submitted to the town.

2. Maine Association of conservation Commissions. [MACC]. Invoice received and submitted to Town Manager.

3. November Town Forest Walk was led by Les Hyde whose “MAD Laws of Ecology” lecture was brilliantly delivered. It states that with seasonal and climate changes both critters and people must Move, Adapt or Die. Plenty of examples were given and the 25-30 people in attendance had a good time.

4. World Oceans Day Toni Small reviewed a “River of Words” curriculum at Herring Gut and the St. George School leading up to World Oceans Day. Classes will prepare poetry, writing and art, as they work with guest naturalists, poets and writers. Their works will be on display at world Oceans Day, June 8, 2008. Herring Gut students are also writing an article on raising oysters (this years’ project) for publication in local newspapers in April 2008.

5. Trail Stewards. Pat Kamlin and Lee Boober have volunteered to serve as trail stewards for Fort Point Trail. CC discussed creating a training session for trail stewards which will be open to volunteers and those thinking of volunteering. John Falla recommended Wayne Judkins, Parks and Recreation, be a part of the training.

6. Town Newsletter. Lee Cote reported the selectmen have established a Communication Committee who are charged with preparing the newsletter and managing information on the town website. **Volunteers are needed, please contact Lee.** Deadline for the next newsletter is tomorrow, after that there will be a fixed date every other month. It was suggested that links connect the town website and Jackson Memorial Library website which is building an interactive calendar for St. George community activities.

7. “Our Town, Our Land” Anita submitted a draft announcement for Thursday night discussion sessions to be held the 17 of January, 28 of February and 20 of March. Minor changes were made and copy is ready for submission to newsletters and press. Thank you Anita.

8. Islesboro ordinance changes. Duke noted proposed changes in setbacks for wells and leech fields. Islesboro is asking to change these setbacks from 100’ to 200 feet in order to protect the water table as housing density increases on the island.

9. Connecting St. Georges two public trails. Linda Duncan again inquired about progress on this endeavor. No resolution.

10. Retreat and training for CC. Last CC retreat was about five years ago. We will meet in a workshop session Wednesday, January 16, 4-6 pm at the Town Office to prepare the format and speakers for our next retreat. In this we hope to accomplish both training and an action plan for the next few years.

Next CC meeting Thursday, January 3, 2008.

Seasons Greetings to all. Respectfully, Jean Hewitt (Sec’y)