

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2008.

PRESENT: Duncan, Ellis (chair), Small, Hewitt. EXCUSED: Elfast, Bracy, Coggeshall. OTHERS: Chris Leavitt, Anita Siegenthaler.

MINUTES: Amended by J. Falla as follows; **Under 1. Wetlands** lines 4-6 read... “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.” **Correction**, These wetlands should be classified under Shoreland Zoning, not NRPDs. **Under 5. Trail Stewards**, “John Falla recommended that Wayne Judkins, Parks and Recreation Director, be kept in the communications loop regarding the trails”, not “be part of the training”. **Minutes were approved as amended.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wetlands Linda conferred with Tim Polky about newly identified wetlands which are larger than 10 acres. So far nine such areas which were not previously classified under shoreland zoning have been found on the new tax maps. We will walk or snowshoe two of them soon; one is to the rear of Marge Cooks property, the other East of #131 in Smalleytown. Tim is preparing maps for us. His is the only computer which can download the layers.

2. Snowshoe Tracking Walk meets Sunday January 20, 1 p.m. at the Town Forest Kiosk. Call Duke for more information. Jean will put an announcement in local papers.

3. Treasury. Acknowledgement and thanks for checks were received from both MACC and from Friends of Midcoast.

4. Our Town, Our Land. The order of topics has been revised.

1. Jan. 17, “Wetlands We Used To Fill”
2. Feb. 28, “Looking At Land, the Monhegan Model”
3. Mar. 20, “Land Meets Water.”

Friends of St George will provide labor, set-up the meeting place, and they will provide food and drink. CC will arrange visual aids and projection. We meet Wed. Jan 9, at 3:30 in Town Hall basement to complete plans for the presentation on wetlands.

We seek an alternative speaker for the second meeting in case weather prevents Doug Boynton from getting off Monhegan.

5. Retreat and Training for CC. Meet to plan this event 4-6 p.m., Jan 16, in the town office basement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Wind power. Planning Board considers regulation of wind turbines Jan 8.

ADJOURNED. NEXT MEETING 7:30 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec’y)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2008

PRESENT: Coggeshall, Duncan, Hewitt, Ellis (Chair)

EXCUSED: Elfast. Small, Bracy

OTHERS: Rob Stenger, Anita Siegenthaler, Chris Leavitt

MINUTES: Correction to minutes of February 7, the following was omitted from last month's minutes under item 1. 'Wetlands'. **MOVED: SECONDED AND CARRIED.** That the Conservation Commissions unanimously supports the town designating those areas of wetland in excess of ten (10) acres as shore land zone in order to conform with State regulations and to protect this valuable resource for the town's future. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Wetlands discussion.** Polky and Leavitt have had two open hearings re; the initiative to designate nine newly identified wetland areas as shore land zone. Of the nine, eight will be submitted for the town's approval at the annual meeting One will remain as it is for this year with further action expected in 2009.

2. **Retreat** for CC. May 2, 2008 is under consideration.

3. **Kiosks.** Rob Stenger suggests pamphlets be printed on glossy paper which is more durable and water resistant than regular printer paper.

Road signs were delivered to Augusta and should be in place within the month.

CC plans a workshop session Wed. 3/12 in Town Office to determine final content of notices to be printed for Kiosks. Linda will contact Bill Goodwill re Audobon Societys plans for the Kiosks. Duke will ask J. Skoglund what the St. George Historical Society would like to submit.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Winter Film Series.

Monhegan Model Feb. 28. 30-35 people showed up for a film and discussion on how MISCA and several other community efforts to conserve coastal Maine came about.

Doug Boynton from Monhegan answered questions about Monhegan's affordable housing program for Islanders.

March 20 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office -- Round Table on Coastal Pollution. Using film and discussion Sherm Hoyt will address relationships between commercial fisheries, water quality, invasive species, rising water levels, non point source pollution. Joss to handle audiovisuals, Anita public relations, Jean to invite members of other town committees and boards. Duke will welcome the audience and Georgie Davis will introduce Sherm.

Future Events. We will collaborate with Friends of St. George to present a Summer Conservation Film Series so that seasonal residents may participate. Suggestions for summer topics include, re-running the best of 2008's presentations, and/or "The End of

Suburbia”, Power of Community, “Beginning With Habitat” as well as collaboration on Energy Independence Day. Films for 2009 will be screened in September. Suggestions are welcome.

2. **C.C. to participate in the World Ocean Day Celebration** at St. George School on Friday, June 6. Our focus will be the marsh adjacent to school.

3. **Town Clean-Up May 3**, from 8 a.m. Meet at Town Office. Notice to go in the Town Newsletter, Courier, Free Press after checking with St. George Day committee re possibility of their having a fund raiser at the same time [Hewitt], and J. Barstow [Duncan]

4. **Annual Action Plan.** Jean met with Lee Cote and Town Manager to review CC’s action plan for 2007 and outline targets for 2008. Details at our next meeting once Town approves.

ADJOURNED. NEXT MEETING Thursday April 3, 2008. 7:30 a.m. in the Town Office

Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt (Sec’y)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF April 3, 2008

PRESENT: Coggeshall, Duncan, Bracy, Small, Hewitt,

EXCUSED: Elfast, Ellis

OTHERS: Rob Stenger, Anita Siegenthaler, and Chris Leavitt

MINUTES: Approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wetland discussion. Deferred

2. Retreat. Randy Benthien suggests the next best time for retreat will be sometime in Oct. or early November. We will schedule this when when all members can be present.

3. Kiosks. Duncan, Hewitt and Stenger met to decide how kiosks will look. Four information sources will appear on the front side of each kiosk: a. Seasonally changing postings regarding flora and fauna on laminated posters. b. A site map including points of interest and foot trails with GPS points. c. Some historical background and d. tri-fold pamphlets, which hikers may take with them and return to the kiosk. Pamphlets will include site map, photos of significant locations and commentary.

Rob Stenger is designing the pamphlets and other written material. He and Duke will GPS trail points later this month.

Linda Duncan reported Bill Goodwill was happy with the offer of space on the back of kiosks for Midcoast Audubon's use. He will get back to us after speaking with his group. Fred Morrel was mentioned as a possible trail steward.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Talk on Coastal Pollution. Sherm Hoyt's talk and power point presentation last month was excellent. We will co sponsor [with F/O St. Geo.] a repeat presentation this summer for the benefit of seasonal residents. Date to be determined by Friends of St. George and Sherm. Roller Shades are needed for the six conference room windows in order to view PowerPoint and movies during the summer months.

Jean reported that the newly established St. George Watershed Coalition (brainchild of GRLT) is planning a two-month Summer Celebration of the River featuring activities and presentations sponsored by organizations throughout the watershed. The CC and Friends of St. George will submit Sherm Hoyt's talk on Coastal Pollution [expanded to include South Thomaston] as part of this series. CC also expects to sponsor a repeat hike and historical talk with Jim Skoglund at Fort Point.

2. Roadside cleanup May 3. Rain or Shine. Starts 8 A.M. at the Town Office. Workers should come choose their assignment. Plastic buckets for glass and trash bags will be available. Again the Balduc Correctional Facility will provide manpower on Friday to clear the section of Rt. #131 between Wiley's corner and the South Thomaston line. St. George Day Committee will host breakfast beginning at 7 A.M. Transfer Station offers free dump services to St. George residents on Saturday only. No word yet as to whether Monhegan Boat will participate in the clean up. Signs advertising the cleanup will go up on April 23.

3. Notice of Training Sessions.

- a.) April 30, 4-7:30 P.M. “Vernal Pools” in Falmouth sponsored by MEACC.
- b.) May 3, The MEACC annual meeting in conjunction with the Maine Land Conservation Conference meets at Brunswick High School. Second largest such conf in the country.

4. Collaboration with Herring Gut (HG). Toni Small reported that HG, Jackson Library and St. George School will celebrate world Oceans Day on Friday June 6, from Noon till 2 P.M. in the auditorium. HG students have presentations on Oyster propagation. The “River of Words” project has generated 97 student poems some of which will be on display. Annette Nagel of GRLT will provide a poster/Arial photo of The Marsh’s watershed with pour points and property lines superimposed as well as 75’ and 250’ setbacks.

A shoreline cleanup is in the planning stages. The date in June and specific site have not been chosen.

5. Alewives: John Shea hopes to see Alewives re-established in the Marsh. We agree it would be a great project. A meeting on “Restoration and Monitoring of Alewives in the ST. George River” with Theo Willis from University of Maine is scheduled April 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Warren Public Library. Sponsor is GRLT. Call John 372-6213 or GRLT for more information.

Adjourned. Next meeting Thursday May 1, 2008
Respectfully submitted, Jean Hewitt, Sec’y.