

Camden Conservation Commission minutes, meeting of 10/31/12

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of meeting held October 31, 2012, 7-8:40 PM

Draft version

PRESENT: members of the Camden Conservation Commission (herein the Commission): Doug Johnson, Robin Kern, Barbara Melchiskey

(excused members: David Kern, Carla Ferguson, Roger Rittmaster, John Evrard)

PRESENT: non-members: Nancy Caudle-Johnson (Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator)

The meeting, chaired by Doug Johnson, proceeded as follows:

There was a review of the minutes of September 19 but approval will have to await the next meeting with a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Doug described the Rokes Farm walking tour held on the morning of October 21 (the tour was given twice that morning). For the tour, announcements had been placed in the local papers and flyers distributed. Nina Young of Maine Farmland Trust gave an introduction, describing the property and the purchasers, and Cate Cronin, a consultant to Maine Farmland Trust, also presented information of interest to the general public. Doug felt that the tour was a great success, with about 50 people attending.

-the Commission's donation of \$500.00 to the Maine Farmland Trust has not yet happened. Doug and Robin will meet with Patricia Finnigan at some point to discuss this.

-Nancy presented and described the grant that she wrote and submitted for a heritage tree program under Maine's Project Canopy (see attachment). Nancy would be the grant project coordinator. The grant envisioned:

(1) developing a nomination form that would be distributed and also available online. Doug, as certified arborist, would inspect and evaluate the nomination. If authenticated, the nomination would be approved by the tree board. Robin would then enter the nomination information into a spreadsheet that would form a data base for heritage trees in Camden;

(2) sponsoring a tree walk that would highlight heritage trees, Tree City USA status and the state program. A brochure would be developed describing this walk and particular trees as seen through the four seasons;

(3) creating working partnerships with such institutions and groups as the following (all of whom have submitted letters of support for the heritage tree program):

Camden Conservation Commission minutes, meeting of 10/31/12

-Camden Public Library, which would develop its own program complementing the heritage tree program;

-The Camden Herald, which would have features from time to time on the nominated trees;

-The Children's House Montessori School,

-The Community Schools, and

-Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Doug, as Conservation Commission and Tree Board chair, wrote a letter supporting the grant (see attachment).

In a related matter, Nancy mentioned that a fall photograph of Camden village was on the front cover of the September/October 2012 newsletter of the Arbor Day Foundation. One million copies were distributed.

-Doug suggested that there be an inspection of the skate/ski trail at the Camden Snow Bowl on November 18th, to assess how the trees are doing after the first year of the trail and whether there are any conflicts between root systems and newly installed culverts.

-Doug updated information on the Megunticook River Walk – that the Maine Conservation Corps will build it, possibly starting as early as April, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

-The newsletter of the Megunticook Watershed Association for Fall, 2012, mentions that the loons are fine, an eaglet was raised and that there are brown and rainbow trout.

-Barbara provided an update on vernal pool mapping: a flyover is planned for Camden, Rockport and Lincolnville, although not for vernal pool purposes. Barbara could talk to Steve Wilson about participating. Nancy asked whether Camden could apply for a grant for this. Barbara will pursue this.

The next meeting of the Commission will take place in the Washington Street Conference Room on the last Wednesday in November - November 28th - at 7 PM.

These minutes are submitted by Robin Kern, secretary, as an accurate representation of the major topics discussed and agreed upon at this meeting.

**2012 PROJECT CANOPY ASSISTANCE
PLANNING AND EDUCATION**

USDA FOREST SERVICE-URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CFDA 10:675

Applicant Name: Town of Camden

*Designated Representative: Douglas Johnson

Title: Chair, Camden Conservation Commission

Address: 29 Elm St PO Box 1207
Camden, ME 04843

Phone Number: 207-236-3353

Email Address: (c/o bhodges@camdenmaine.gov)

Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 01-6000097

Project/Program will take place on non-federal land owned or controlled
by: Town of Camden Population: 4,850

Previously Received Community Forestry Assistance Funding Yes No

A. Amount of Project Canopy Funds Requested	\$	<u>5,650</u>
B. Local Match: (See Guidelines)	\$	<u>10,094</u>
C. Total Project Cost (A + B = C)	\$	<u>15,744</u>

Does your community have a comprehensive plan that includes forestry? Yes No
Date certified by State Planning Office: 11/01/2004

Short Project Title: Camden Heritage Tree Project

Brief Description of Project:

(Describe the project, including what is to be developed, produced, performed, and/or implemented. Include project purpose and objectives)

Establish a Camden Heritage Tree Register, create a brochure/map for a walking tour, disseminate publicity about the program, establish educational programs, and hold a public presentation,

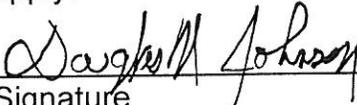
Name of State Senator Chris Rector
Name of State Representative Joan Welsh

Grant applications must include:

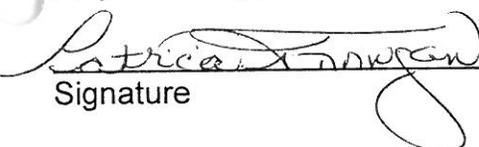
(Refer to the Project Canopy Planning and Education Grant guidelines for specific instructions)

- **Completed Application Form**
- **Narrative**
- **Detailed Budget**
- **3-Year Maintenance Plan**
- **Letters of Support**

*As designated representative of said applicant, I hereby agree to implement this project according to the attached cost and technical proposals and to abide by all local ordinances and restrictions that apply.

 Douglas Johnson 10/22/2012
Signature Date

**As official representative of said applicant, I hereby authorize the project submitted for the proposed Project Canopy Grant.

 Patricia Finnigan 10/22/2012
Signature Date

Please submit proposals in PDF format to the following e-mail: jan.santerre@maine.gov, no later than 5 PM, October 22, 2012. Required information for the proposal should not exceed five (5) pages (excluding budget tables), with a print font size of 12 preferred. Note: the proposal submission inbox can accept message up to 10 MB in size. Multiple messages per proposal may be submitted if necessary. Additional information such as maps, tables, and letter of support may be included in addition to the proposal.

* Designated representative refers to the person authorized by the applicant to submit a grant application, sign documents and take necessary actions to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

**Official representative refers to the Mayor or Town Board Official for a municipality; a Superintendent or Principal for a school; and the Board Director or President in the case of a non-profit organization.

TOWN OF CAMDEN
PROJECT CANOPY GRANT PROPOSAL - CAMDEN HERITAGE TREE PROJECT

PROJECT PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

We have conceived a town-wide Camden Heritage Tree Project with opportunities for participation by any interested individuals (adults and children) and organizations (even in addition to the partners mentioned in our proposal). We are proud that 2012 will mark Camden's 18th year as a *Tree City USA*. Primary objectives:

- 1) To use the Heritage Tree Project as a catalyst to build support in our community for caring for and protecting our community's trees, as eloquently stated by Camden Conservation Commission member Robin Kern. (*See Attachment A*)
- 2) To implement the recommendation cited in the 1995 Camden Community Forestry Management Plan - to "establish a Camden Register of Landmark and Big Trees." (*See Attachment B*)
- 3) To meet two primary goals of the Camden Conservation Commission (which serves as Camden's Tree Board): i.e. "developing the Camden heritage tree program" and "continuing support of *Tree City USA*." (*See Attachment C and Letter from Camden Conservation Commission*)
- 4) To raise awareness - of Camden residents especially, but also among visitors and tourists - about Camden's unique and beautiful tree resource.
- 5) To educate and inform through projects and activities initiated by our project partners.
- 6) To produce a product - the walking tour brochure - highlighting Camden's special trees and treescapes, as well as informing about Camden's tree program, state tree programs (*Project Canopy* and the *Maine Register of Big Trees*), and the Arbor Day Foundation (in particular the *Tree City USA* program).

We are requesting Project Canopy funds for a professionally designed and printed brochure. All other elements of the project will be implemented by volunteers.

MAJOR ELEMENTS

- 1) **Camden Heritage Tree Register**
 - A) **Developing the Nomination Form**

A Nomination Form will be developed, similar to the one used by the state's program, except that Camden will accept trees in several categories: historic trees and treescapes (Camden has several parks named to the National Historic Register); exceptional size for each species (the biggest); species rarity; exceptional beauty; etc.
Responsibility - volunteers: Robin Kern, Camden Conservation Commission/Tree Board member; Nancy Caudle-Johnson, Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator and Maine licensed arborist; Conservation Commission.
 - B) **Distributing Nomination Forms**

The nomination form will be entered on the Town's web site, for downloading. Forms will be distributed to locations in Camden - schools, public offices, library, Chamber, and stores.
Responsibility - volunteers: Those named above and others
 - C) **Accepting Trees to the Register**

Each nominated tree will be evaluated and certified by an arborist. The arborist will also assess the tree's health and condition. Nomination forms will then go before the Conservation Commission/Tree Board who will accept trees onto the Register, based on the arborist's recommendation.
Responsibility - volunteers: Douglas N. Johnson, ISA Certified Arborist, Maine licensed Arborist; Conservation Commission/Tree Board
 - D) **Printing/Updating the Register**

The Tree Register will be updated as new trees are accepted. It will be available for downloading on the Town's web site, and also in print form.
Responsibility - volunteers: Robin Kern, other volunteers

- 2) **Brochure - "Heritage Trees and Treescapes of Camden, Maine - A Walking Tour"**
 Camden is nationally recognized for its beautiful village and harbor. The professionally designed brochure will celebrate the heritage trees and treescapes located within a comfortable walking distance from the village center and have strong appeal for visitors/tourists and local residents. Approximately fifteen trees and treescapes will be included. In the brochure: 1) an illustrated location map; 2) photos and descriptions of each "heritage" tree; 3) information about: a) Camden's tree program and the Heritage Tree Register, b) state tree programs and Maine's *Big Tree* register, and c) the Arbor Day Foundation's *Tree City USA*.
 Specs: Four-color, 18" x 16" folded to 9" x 4", 70# gloss text, print run of 10,000
 Distribution: Town Office, library, schools, Chamber, banks, retail, inns/bed & breakfasts.
Special Note: The Arbor Day Foundation is granting permission for its Sept./Oct. 2012 issue of *Arbor Day* cover (an aerial photo of Camden village in autumn) to be used in our brochure (*see attached*).
Responsibility - volunteers: Nancy Caudle-Johnson - graphic design, photography, writing, editing; Robin Kern - writing, editing; Commission members - photography; Douglas N. Johnson - certifying and evaluating trees/treescapes
- 3) **Camden Heritage Tree Project - Publicity**
Press releases will be sent to the three local newspapers: *The Camden Herald*, *The Free Press*, and *Bangor Daily News*. Publicity will focus on: 1) introducing the Camden Heritage Tree Project; 2) soliciting nominations to the Camden Heritage Tree Register; 3) short features (in *The Camden Herald*) focusing on specific trees accepted for listing in the Register; publicizing the walking tour brochure; announcing the public program and culminating celebration.
Responsibility - volunteers: Nancy Caudle-Johnson; Robin Kern; Conservation Commission members; students
- 4) **Camden Heritage Tree Project - Educational Program/Public Presentation**
 A public presentation at the Camden Public Library will report accomplishments of the Camden Heritage Tree Project and introduce trees nominated to the Register. Guest speaker: Jam Ames Santerre.
Responsibility - Volunteers: Nancy Caudle-Johnson; Robin Kern; Douglas Johnson; Conservation Commission/Tree Board; project participants and partners; library staff
- 5) **Camden Heritage Tree Project - Culminating Celebration**
 Although after the official grant deadline, an Arbor Day celebration will be organized during Maine's Arbor Week in May 2014, celebrating the culmination of the project. *We realize this is after the project deadline, but no match is included.*
- 6) **Partners** (*Supporting letters attached*)
This is envisioned as a community-wide project. We hope additional schools and organizations (the garden club, a local nature center, etc.) will be involved.
 Camden Public Library - Nikki Maounis, Executive Director
 Penobscot Bay Chamber of Commerce - Staci Coomer, Executive Director
The Camden Herald - Stephanie Grinnell, Associate Editor
 The Children's House Montessori School - Kristin L. Sidwell, Administrative Director
 The Community Schools at Camden - Andrea Vassallo, Development Office

KEY ORGANIZATION AND INDIVIDUALS - all volunteers

Camden Conservation Commission/Camden Tree Board

The Camden Conservation Commission is fully committed to this project, as described in the attached letter. Commission members are: Douglas N. Johnson-chair, Robin Kern-secretary/treasurer, John Evrard, Carla Ferguson, David Kern, Barbara Melchiskey, and Roger Rittmaster.

Douglas N. Johnson

Douglas Johnson is an ISA certified arborist (NE 0711A), a certified tree risk assessor (CTRA 1286), and a Maine licensed arborist (FCL 1427). He has served on the Camden Conservation Commission since 1993, and been involved with Camden's Tree City USA and Arbor Day programs since their inception in 1995. He has also developed and managed municipal tree projects (tree inventories, community forest management plans, planting plans, large-scale pruning and planting projects, hazard tree assessments, etc.) throughout the state of Maine, including many funded by grants from Project Canopy and its predecessors. As a consultant he advises private clients and municipalities, including serving as city arborist.

Nancy Caudle-Johnson

Nancy Caudle-Johnson is a Maine licensed arborist (FCL 2567). She initiated Camden's Tree City USA program and Arbor Day celebrations in 1995 and serves as Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator. She has designed and implemented tree projects for a number of Maine municipalities (writing community forest management plans, tree inventories, educational curricula, self-guided tree tours, etc.) which often included tree projects with children (oral histories, photo collections, planting projects, and educational programs), including many funded by Project Canopy and its predecessors. As a public relations/advertising professional, she won awards for graphic design, brochures, and writing.

Robin Kern

Robin Kern's growing love of the forest and trees on her own property led her in 2012 to become a member of the Camden Conservation Commission in the hope that she could work on the protection and appreciation of the trees and forest that surround us all. In particular, she is interested in heritage tree projects in all their varieties, and believes that with increased knowledge about trees come the increasing and valuable sense of responsibility. She is a lawyer with a background in labor law.

Elkhit A

STATEMENT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A SIGNIFICANT TREE PROGRAM IN CAMDEN, MAINE

The following are what I believe to be the significant aspects of a significant (or landmark or historic) tree program:

- a tree identified as significant through an application or nomination process specified in a form provided by a town (or state or nation) records the nature of that tree, scientifically, historically and more subjectively; the tree, thus recorded, has a greater chance of being preserved to whatever extent possible;
- a tree identified through an application or nomination process identifies the identifier: that person's connection with the tree and therefore with the location of the tree and therefore, in a wider sense, with that part of the world;
- the bilateral nature of the nomination process brings forth a wealth of information on the local environment, information that can be critical in developing a wise use of whatever resources are available;
- the active process of nominating a tree draws into the locale (town in this case but can be expanded to mean the countryside, the state, the history) the person involved in the nomination, and by extension draws in everyone who knows of this nomination;
- the fact of an expanding group of nominating individuals creates a force with an interest not only in the trees that are nominated but also in the landscape as a whole and the fabric of the society surrounding those trees;
- what is created in the process of a significant tree program is an accumulating wealth of knowledge and commitment that can be used in many ways and in fact cannot be categorized in such a way as to limit its use.

Finally, the heart of the nomination form – namely, the reason for the nomination – which allows for the description of a reason not otherwise categorized (allows for a reason other than age of tree, rarity of species, etc.) has the potential to elicit facts previously unknown to the public, facts that may be important for the historical record and the understanding of this particular location. In a way, then, the nomination form can be seen as a kind of fact-gathering that falls someplace between oral and written history. I believe that one can only gain from the accumulation of such knowledge.

Robin Kern
Member, Camden Conservation Commission/Camden Tree Board
10/12/2012

Establish a "Camden Register of Landmark and Big Trees"

Both the United States and Maine have official "big tree" registers. The National Register of Big Trees is a program of American Forests, a Washington, D.C. based citizens conservation organization. They publish an updated list every two years.

We propose that Camden establish the Camden Register of Landmark and Big Trees, which will include the largest specimens within the town boundaries, as well as identifying historic and other trees of significance.

Special steps for protection and preservation of Camden's champions can then be undertaken. And this is a project in which everyone can be involved -- townspeople, children, civic organizations, and town officials.

We can think of no program that would be more effective in increasing public awareness and pride in Camden's community forest.

Camden Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, 08/22/12

program would preclude the problems that developed in Rockland in 2010-2011. In Rockland, the City Attorney developed a detailed Agreement, "Pruning Practiced in the City of Rockland", signed by CMP, in which CMP agreed to follow the "Utility Tree Pruning Specifications" written for Rockland by TreeKeepers LLC. Ms. Finnigan was receptive to developing such a program and Doug will continue to work with her on this issue. Doug has also provided her with a memo on this issue dated August 1, 2012.

Jeff reported that there are more culverts being placed on the new trail at the Snow Bowl, due to standing water.

The final item of old business: Doug, Robin, Carla and Barbara Melchiskey did attend the Town Select Board meeting workshop on July 17th.

Jeff reported that Parks and Recreation has created a map of Camden's parks and natural areas, which it is hoped will be done by early November.

Doug presented six Commission goals, which he felt were in harmony with the Select Board's list of goals. These Commission goals are as follows:

supporting the Select Board's goal of preserving "what makes Camden Camden" through assistance with the Downtown Business Plan Implementation in our capacity as a research, advisory and advocacy group for conservation and environmental issues; further, for example

providing assistance in the ongoing attempt to make downtown Camden greener, and, specifically, dealing with the possibility that the public parking area could be developed as a park,

supporting Maine Farmland Trust and the Rokes endeavor,

- } developing the Camden heritage tree program,
- } continuing support of Tree City, USA, and

assisting the Planning Board with its comprehensive plan revision.

There was a sense of general agreement with these goals.

The last two items are more mundane:

1) dues of \$195.00 must be paid for continued membership in the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. Robin will contact Carol Sue Greenleaf about this;

2) Jeff suggested that the Commission request that someone in the Town Office act as liaison between the Commission and the Town, a practice that he said exists with other committees. Steve Wilson was mentioned as a possibility. Robin will look into this.

A book "Best Nature Sites in Mid-Coast Maine" will be given to former chair Bob Gasset in appreciation for his many contributions. It was inscribed by the Commission members and John Evrard will personally take it to Bob.

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Camden, Maine

October 18, 2012

Dear TREE PEOPLE at Project Canopy,

The Camden Conservation Commission, which serves as Camden's Tree Board, is wholeheartedly in favor of the Camden Heritage Tree Project as outlined in the grant proposal.

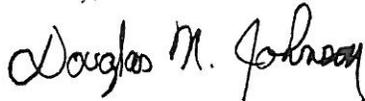
Two of the Conservation Commission's primary goals for the year 2012 are to develop a Heritage Tree Program and to continue its support for the Tree City USA program. The Heritage Tree Project addresses both goals.

Our longtime Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator Nancy Caudle-Johnson (the person who originated the Tree City USA program in Camden) and new Conservation Commission member Robin Kern have combined energies to bring to life a recommendation first outlined in the 1995 Camden Community Forest Management Plan (funded by an America the Beautiful grant) to "establish a Camden Register of Landmark and Big Trees."

In preparing this grant application, our Tree City USA coordinator has brought on board an impressive group of community partners - the Camden Public Library, our local Pen Bay Chamber of Commerce, our town's weekly newspaper *The Camden Herald*, and two village schools - the Children's House Montessori School (elementary grades) and The Community School (high school). All are excited about partnering and creating their own special contributions and programs to make the Camden Heritage Tree Project a community-wide, resounding success.

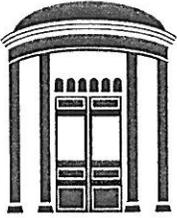
We believe this project will be highly effective in increasing public awareness and pride in Camden's community forest. Camden Conservation Commission members are committed to volunteering time and energy to this exciting project. We hope our grant application is approved by Project Canopy and that the Camden Heritage Tree Registry and the walking tour brochure become a reality in 2013.

Sincerely,



Douglas N. Johnson
Chair, Camden Conservation Commission

Camden Conservation Commission members:
John Evrard, Carla Ferguson, David Kern, Robin Kern, Barbara Melchiskey, Roger Rittmaster



Camden Public Library
55 Main Street
Camden, Maine 04843

Phone: 207-236-3440
Fax: 207-236-6673
www.librarycamden.org

October 18, 2012

Nancy Caudle-Johnson
Tree City USA and Arbor Day Coordinator
Camden, ME 04843

Dear Nancy,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of your Project Canopy grant proposal to develop the Camden Heritage Tree Project. The Camden Public Library looks forward to the chance to work with you and our public to nominate heritage trees in the community. We also welcome the opportunity to develop programs for children and adults that educate that community on this subject. We plan to develop books displays and special story times to further spread the word about this project and heritage trees.

Your ideas to design and produce a map for a Heritage Tree Walk are very interesting and I believe many community members and visitors would love to take such a walk. We look forward to working with you in the future on this important effort.

Sincerely,

Nikki Maounis
Executive Director

Penobscot Bay

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



October 19, 2012

Nancy Caudle-Johnson
43 Pearl Street
Camden, Maine 04843

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your call yesterday regarding Camden's Heritage Tree Project. I understand that this project is to promote planning and education of the public about "Heritage Trees" within the town through a brochure which will identify and locate them within the scope of Camden's Project Canopy. With over 12,000 visitors per year at our Chamber and Visitor Center, a brochure of this nature could be of great use in our community.

Camden, ME, is a picturesque community with its vibrant downtown, active harbor, and tree lined residential streets. That combination of assets provides an attraction for visitors from out of state as well as from within our borders. It is also a driving factor for people who decide to move to our community for retirement, for business, and to raise families.

We understand that the intent of Project Canopy is to maximize the aesthetic and environmental benefits of trees within participating communities. Efforts of the town of Camden and its Conservation Committee to showcase and protect significant trees within our borders is an effort to further engage citizens in helping Camden maintain its level of attraction to both visitors and residents alike.

Sincerely,


Staci Coomer
Executive Director



THE COURIER-GAZETTE
Your Hometown Newspaper
The Camden Herald
Published Monday through Friday

Oct. 19, 2012

To Nancy Caudle-Johnson
Tree City USA and Arbor Day Coordinator for Camden

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for your recent call regarding your grant application to Project Canopy for the Camden Heritage Tree Project. I certainly would be interested in running photos and available information about heritage trees located in Camden Herald coverage territory. I can commit to regular publication online in addition to print, as space allows.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Grinnell".

Stephanie Grinnell
Associate Editor
Camden Herald
5 Bay View Landing
Camden, ME 04843



the
children's
house
montessori school

58 Elm Street
Camden, Maine 04843
236-2911 • fax 236-0011

October 17, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the Camden Heritage Tree Project. The Children's House Montessori School is eager to participate in this project as part of its curriculum.

Children's House is a small, independent school located in downtown Camden. We serve children ages 18 months through fourth grade. Because we strive to include the natural world in our curriculum at all levels, the Heritage Tree Project would be a good fit giving our children the opportunity to learn about heritage trees, research different tree species, and incorporate their research and ideas into stories and art.

We are hopeful the Camden Heritage Tree Project will be able to proceed, and we look forward to our involvement with it.

Sincerely



Kristin L. Sidwell
Administrative Director



October 18, 2012

Nancy Caudle-Johnson
Tree City USA Coordinator
Town of Camden, Maine

Dear Nancy,

It is with great enthusiasm that we support your application for a Project Canopy grant and we are pleased to be part of the collaboration involved in this project.

The mission of The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden is to provide students with the skills and experience necessary to discover their strengths, connect with their families, practice personal responsibility and contribute to their communities.

Our students engage in a number of community service projects throughout the year, as well as holding part-time jobs and internships in with local businesses and non-profit organizations. Our curriculum includes a strong environmental education component and the Project Canopy grant fits perfectly with our mission and goals.

We are pleased to be part of this important community collaboration and wish you great success with your Project Canopy application.

Sincerely,

Andrea Vassallo
Development Office

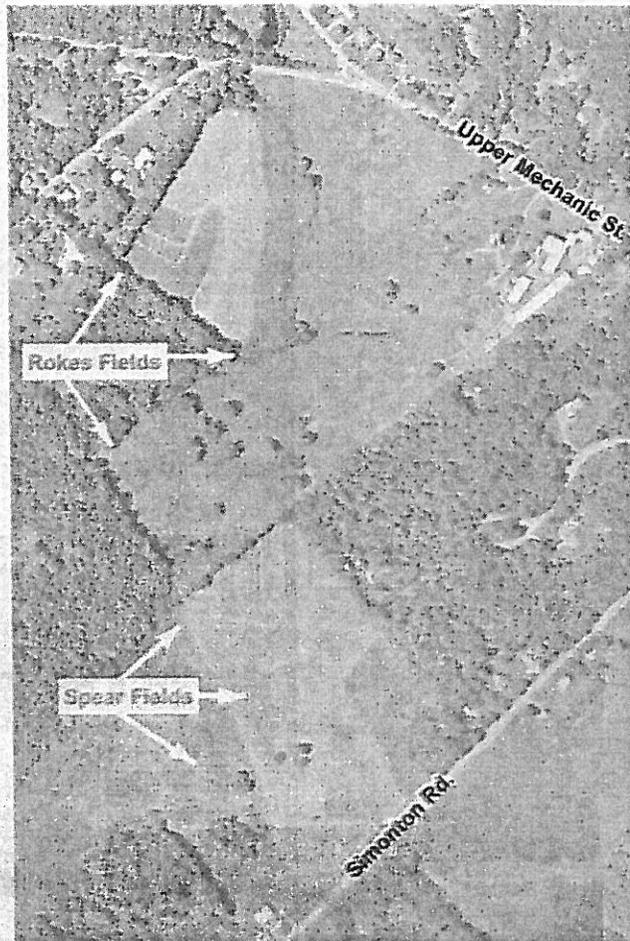
Tours of Rokes Farm in Camden to Be Given October 21

The Camden Conservation Commission is sponsoring two tours of the Rokes Farm in Camden on Sunday, October 21, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., rain or shine. Maine Farmland Trust staff will lead the tours and talk about the history of the farm's operations as the next generation of farmers begins to work the land. All ages are welcome. Meet at the farm entrance by the chicken barns (208 Mechanic Street in Camden), and wear suitable clothing for strolling the fields. Those who take the tour may also want to partake of the pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Ragged Mountain Recreation Area.

One of the Camden Conservation Commission's directives, as stated in the Camden Comprehensive Plan, is to encourage continued use of the land within the town of Camden for agriculture. According to Commission Chair Douglas N. Johnson, "The commission created this opportunity for the community to familiarize themselves with the beautiful and soon-to-be productive farm and to 'step into' the bucolic vista enjoyed from outer Mechanic Street and the Hosmer Pond Road."

Together with the Spear property, the preservation of the 54 acres of Camden farmland is currently the focus of a local fundraising effort by Maine Farmland Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The joint campaign is called "Saving Camden Farmland for Farming" to stress that the goal is not just to preserve open space, but to help revitalize local farming. The campaign seeks to raise \$303,000, the value of the agricultural easement for the properties.

Maine Farmland Trust recently announced that Rokes Farm will soon be sold to young, experienced farmers with local ties, subject to the conservation easement that ensures the farm is kept available for farming forever. Due to the easement prohibiting development, the buyers are paying a price based on the fair value as farmland.

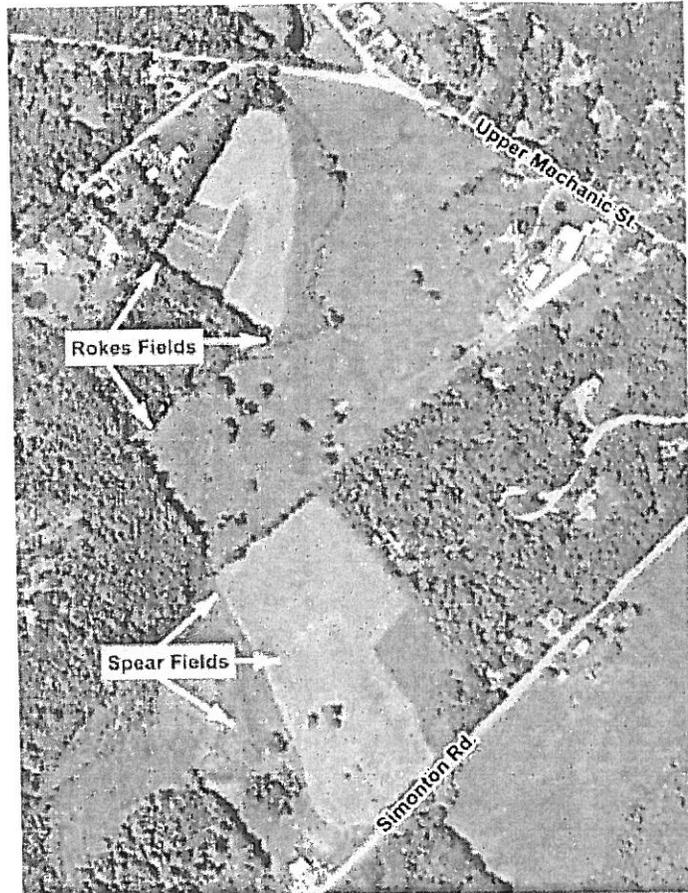
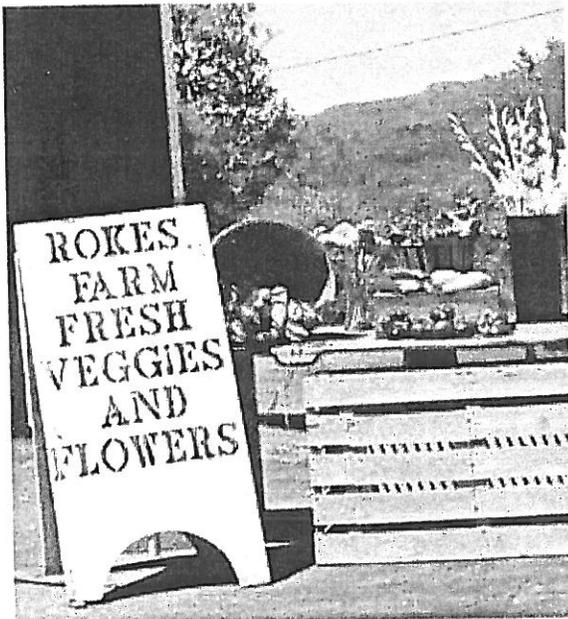


Organizers of the event are Conservation Commission members Douglas Johnson, John Evrard and Carla Ferguson, volunteer Nancy Caudle-Johnson, and Cate Cronin with the Maine Farmland Trust. For more information about the tours, contact Douglas Johnson at 236-6855. For information about Maine Farmland Trust and the fundraising campaign, contact Cate Cronin at ccronin@mainefarmlandtrust.org or 542-2665.

Saving Camden Farmland for Farming

Walking Tours of Rokes Farm

Sunday, October 21
Tours begin at
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
208 Mechanic Street



The **Camden Conservation Commission** invites you to Walking Tours of Rokes Farm with Maine Farmland Trust to learn about the history of farm operations, as well as what we may see in the farming seasons to come as the next generation of farmers begin to work this land.

Rokes Farm is a treasured community asset and the focus of a joint fundraising effort between Maine Farmland Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust called "**Saving Camden Farmland for Farming**" seeking to preserve Rokes and the adjacent Spear property not only for open space but *also* to help revitalize local farming.

Meet us at the entrance near the chicken barns and a Maine Farmland Trust lands staff will guide us down through the fields and back up to the barns. Stop in at the Snowbowl Pancake Breakfast before or after your walk!

For more information contact:

*Cate Cronin Maine Farmland Trust 542-2665 ccronin@mainefarmlandtrust.org
or Douglas Johnson Camden Conservation Commission 236-6855*

The Camden Herald

44 pages |

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

1 | Published Weekly

Thanks for tour

The Camden Conservation Commission would like to thank the Maine Farmland Trust for leading two walking tours of Rokes Farm — Camden's new "Forever Farm" — this past Sunday morning.

The weather was Fall-spectacular, and the informational program and farmland tour delivered to nearly fifty people was exceptional! The vistas from the distant end of the field looking back toward outer Mechanic Street and Hosmer Pond Road rival the beautiful view from the road that is so familiar.

We learned that a young woman who grew up in Camden and then moved to California is now returning home and purchasing the land with her husband, the son of a successful farming family in California's Central Valley. Agricultural land, permanently protected, is a reason more and more educated and hard working young people are remaining in Maine after college or returning. Thanks to Maine Farmland Trust and its programs such as Maine Farm Link for this ever growing segment of young Mainers.

Thanks to those who helped with the event and publicity — Cate Cronin, Nina Young, and Andrea Denny of Maine Farmland Trust, John Evrard and Carla Ferguson of the Camden Conservation Commission, and Volunteer Nancy Caudle-Johnson.

Thank you,
Douglas N. Johnson,
Chairman
Camden Conservation
Commission