

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING 1/8/2014

Minutes of meeting held January 8, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Camden Conservation Commission (CCC) members present: Doug Johnson (chairman), Roger Rittmaster, Tom Hopps, Barbara Melchinsky, Landon Fake (ex-officio)

Excused members: Robin Kern, Carla Ferguson

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) The minutes of the December 4, 2013, meeting were approved as distributed.
- 2) Roger reported on the first two Camden Nature Walks (December 7 and January 5), co-sponsored by the Camden Conservation Commission and Coastal Mountains Land Trust. Twenty-five people attended the first walk at the Snow Bowl, and thirteen attended the second walk at Merryspring. The second walk had to be postponed by a day due to frigid weather. The walk participants were enthusiastic, and various individuals shared their knowledge of natural history. February's walk will take place on Sunday, February 2, from noon to 2 PM, at Stevens Corner in Camden Hills State Park (corner of Youngtown and Beach Roads in Lincolnville).
- 3) Doug distributed and discussed the ordinance establishing the Camden Conservation Commission (see attachment).
- 4) Doug presented a progress report from Steve Wilson on the Camden natural lands survey and inventory (see attachment). The maps are in the process of being updated, and Steve Wilson will provide further details at a future CCC meeting. Tom volunteered to be the point person from the CCC to liaise with Steve Wilson.
- 5) The issue of vernal pool mapping was raised as part of the discussion on the natural lands survey. Roger volunteered to give an update on Maine's vernal pool mapping program at the next CCC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Doug noted that the CCC had made extensive comments on Chapter 5 of the Camden Comprehensive Plan and that he had recently asked the Town whether any further input was needed from the CCC.
- 2) In preparation for upgrading of the Camden Snow Bowl's facilities, Landon noted that Mid-Maine Forestry has been hired to do a forestry inventory of the property and the likely impact of proposed changes to the facilities, including a new chair lift. A copy of Mid-Maine Forestry's Ownership Objective form was circulated (see attached).

Doug has yet to decide the date of the next meeting. It was originally scheduled for January 29 at 7 PM, but it may be changed.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Rittmaster

TOWN OF CAMDEN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Section I. Commission established.

A conservation commission is hereby established pursuant to Title 30-A, Sections 3261-3263, M.R.S.A. to consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, all of whom shall be residents of the Town. The terms of office shall be three (3) years except that initial appointments after the date of adoption of this Ordinance shall be such that the terms of no more than three (3) members shall expire in any single year. For that purpose, the Board of Selectmen shall initially appoint three members for terms of one year, two members for terms of two years, and two members for terms of three years, such that the terms of one-third of the members shall expire each year.

Section II. Purpose.

The purpose of the conservation commission shall be to serve as a research, advisory and advocacy group on environmental and conservation issues relating to the Town.

Section III. Qualifications.

All members of the commission shall be selected upon the basis of their knowledge of or interest in conservation, environmental science or related fields.

Section IV. Powers and duties.

The commission:

- (a) Shall keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the Town;
- (b) Shall conduct research in conjunction with the planning board into local land areas;
- (c) Shall seek to coordinate the activities of conservation bodies organized for similar purposes;
- (d) May keep an index of all open areas within the Town, whether publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information relating to the proper protection, development or use of those open areas. The commission may recommend to the Board of Selectmen or to any board

of the Town or to any body politic or public agency of the state a program for the better protection, development or use of such open areas, which may include the acquisition of conservation easements;

- (e) May advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it considers necessary, if municipal appropriations provide financial resources to do so;
- (f) Shall undertake any other conservation or environmental activity referred to it by the Board of Selectmen.
- (g) May recommend to the Selectmen the acceptance of gifts in the municipality's name for any of the Commission's purposes.
- (h) Shall carry out the guidelines in the Camden Community Forest Management Plan approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Section V. Officers, meetings and records.

- (a) The members shall annually elect from their membership a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary.
- (b) All meetings of the Conservation Commission shall be open to the public, and notice, if required by law, should be provided to the public about such meetings.
- (c) Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.

Section VI. Limits of authority.

Nothing contained within this section shall supersede the provisions of the Town Charter, the Code Book of the Town of Camden. No powers and duties which may be exercised by conservation commissions under state statute which are not explicitly provided in this article may be exercised by the commission created herein.

Adopted by the voters of the Town of Camden on June 8, 1999.

Town of Camden

To: Doug Johnson, Chair Camden Conservation Commission
From: Steve Wilson Planner CEO
CC:
Date: 1/7/2014
Re: Camden Conservation Commission Land Inventory Map

Comments: I apologize in taking so long to issue a progress report on this subject. However I am making progress, I have contacted Lynne at the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association and we are currently negotiating the update of the map and the transfer of the data layers to our in house GIS system for future updating. I should have this information in the near future so we can finalize the process.
Once the GIS layers are updated we will add them to the information we currently have in the system and then we can continue to have updates information available to any interested people. I am also exploring the possibility of being able to provide access to the information on the web using Google earth. I will keep you posted as this project progresses.



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OWNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

Landowner's Name(s): _____ Date: _____

1) How important to you are the following ownership objectives?

	high	medium	low	none
timber production for income	___	___	___	___
timber production for personal use	___	___	___	___
aesthetics	___	___	___	___
recreation	___	___	___	___
wildlife	___	___	___	___
soil & water conservation	___	___	___	___
cultural	___	___	___	___
other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

2) Of the above, what are your two most important objectives?

_____ & _____

3) Ownership Objective Categories:

- INCOME - How soon would you ideally like to have income from your woodland?

Are you willing to re-invest some income back into the property (for example, in timber stand improvement, road building, wildlife habitat)? If so, in what projects?

- PRODUCTS FOR OWN USE - What wood species and/or products would you want to save for your own use, and when?
- RECREATION - What recreational activities do you or others enjoy on your property?

- AESTHETICS - What woodland features found on your property are important to you aesthetically and that you would like to accentuate (eg, vistas, wildflowers, cleared understory, stream)?

 - WILDLIFE - What species or types would you like to have on your property? Are there any that you don't want to encourage?

 - SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - Are there any areas of special concern regarding soil erosion or water protection?

 - CULTURAL - Are there special cultural or historic features that you want to protect?
- 4) Which management activities on your land would you be willing &/or able to do yourself (eg, firewood cutting, trail building, boundary line maintenance)? What would best be done by contractors/consultants?
- 5) What is the land use history of the property? What are the future activities, if any, planned for the property in the next 10 years?
- 6) What special features of your property are important to you?
- 7) What else should we know about you and your property in order to understand and meet your needs better?