

## Camden Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting – June 29, 2016  
Washington Street Conference Room

Members present: Roger Rittmaster (Chair), Kristen Lindquist, Alison McKellar, Vicki Doudera, Robin Kern. Members absent: Doug Johnson. Others present: Marc Ratner (Selectman Liaison) Gary Gulezian, Keri Kaczor (Maine Healthy Beaches Program, UMaine Coop Extension.)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. The minutes of the May 25 meeting were approved by e-mail.

2. We welcomed our guests and Keri Kaczor began her program. She explained how the various beaches accumulated data from Maine towns (Camden has several people gathering data.) All towns have Beach Managers – in Camden it has been the Code Enforcement Officer for many years. Beaches are monitored weekly (on Tuesdays), particularly where people swim and in high-risk areas. The typical problem areas are where rivers and storm drains meet the sea. They test for fecal contamination – human but also pet and wildlife waste, all of which cause illness in humans. Some things we learned: Faulty infrastructure is the biggest threat to water quality. Maine is one of the only states that does not chlorinate waste water year round. Fecal bacterial growth is persistent and can keep growing even after the sources are eliminated. There are other challenges, including insecure funding, lag time, diverse beach managers, and lack of economic value. Contrary to popular belief, the tide does not flush out contamination; rather contaminates drift out on an ebb tide and come back in on a flood tide, possibly clinging to seaweed along the way.

Keri reviewed Laite Beach's last 10 years of ranking as the third most polluted beach in Maine. When there are high counts, it takes about 3 days to flush them out. Over 1 inch of rainfall in 24 hours, the Program urges communities to post beaches. We discussed being sensitive to tourism, etc., and yet making sure the public knows if beaches are safe/healthy for swimming.

Keri is excited about cleaning water at the end of pipes, using biocontrol. This technology is in its infancy. The capacity to be able to do microbial source tracking to pinpoint the cause of pollution – water fowl, human, pharmaceuticals, etc – at its source is building. She also suggested using non-toxic dyes for boat heads to track where boat waste goes.

3. After we thanked Keri and she left, we discussed next month's meeting. **Due to a conflict with the Midcoast Solid waste group, we will meet on July 28, which is a Thursday.**

Alison suggested we invite Dave Bolstridge of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to a meeting. We also talked about inviting the code enforcement officer, who serves as our Beach Manager.

4. **Camden Land Survey:** Roger suggested we table the Sagamore Farm discussion until next month.

5. Update on **Ragged Mountain Parcels:** Roger updated Marc on what the proposal covers. Roger has asked Pat Finnigan for a time for the CCC to present the motion at a Select Board Meeting, but has yet to hear back from Pat.

6. **Tannery Site Update:** Marc was at the last meeting of the Tannery Work group. He said that small groups consistently picked the Farmer's Market as an option; or a playground for very small

children. All ideas will be weighed and we will stay on top of it.

7. **Solid Waste Management in Camden:** Alison reported on the June 15<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting vote to turn down Ecomaine. Many voters see Ecomaine as the safe choice, but if not enough towns go with Fiberight, it will not be built. It remains a complicated issue.

8. **Ordinance prohibiting feeding wild animals:** We discussed the issues, including how we treat the people that feed wild animals, and remain sensitive to them, and decided that we need to brainstorm at a meeting to figure out where we go with both the feeding waterfowl and storm water drainage, in terms of educating residents.

9. **Storm Water Drain project:** Alison explained about the stencils which she is working on with Rick Seibel. She has the paint and many of us offered to help. Vicki brought up that it would be a good community project/effort.

10. **New members:** Vicki and Roger both suggested new people to fill our open positions. These new folks, Seth Meyer and Wayne Ruesswick, have filled out applications and will be reviewed by the Select Board.

11. Robin drafted a proposal for Commission Member Emeritus/Emerita Status: for a member who has served well for five years or more. Participants would non-voting members. We discussed it, as well as honoring some residents for lifetime achievements. The Committee agreed to the proposal regarding CCC Member Emeritus status and decided that the minimum time served should be three years (one term), rather than five. Roger will draft a letter to any past members approved by the Commission who fit this criteria and circulate it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. Next meeting will be July 28, 2016. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A THURSDAY.**

Respectfully Submitted, Vicki Doudera, Secretary