

## Camden Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting – July 28, 2016  
Washington Street Conference Room

Members present: Roger Rittmaster (Chair), Alison McKellar, Doug Johnson, Vicki Doudera.  
Members absent: Kristen Lindquist. Others present: Marc Ratner (Selectman Liason), Wayne Ruesswick (pending member) and Dave Bolstridge, Superintendent of Camden Wastewater Department.

NOTE: Action items are underlined.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. The minutes of the June 29 meeting were approved by e-mail.
2. We introduced Wayne and then welcomed our guest David Bolstridge. He explained that last year a survey of stormwater drains, smoke testing, and bacteria testing was done. Bacteria testing will also be done again this year and is ongoing at present. Dave explained that Camden's wastewater and stormwater should be completely separate systems, but that we are not alone among Maine towns in having issues with the two mixing, especially after heavy rainfalls.

Roger asked the extent of wild animal contamination in the river. Dave said that once the human waste is eliminated that we will get a sense of how much animals contribute. He was pleased that our ordinance prohibiting feeding was approved, and suggested that we install a sign reminding people not to feed ducks – Alison will circulate a draft sign. Dave also suggested a sign at Laite Beach for picking up dog waste and not leaving diapers.

Alison asked about posting beaches, as this would increase awareness. Rockport has a rain gauge and when it is at a certain level they post the beach. We discussed that more testing is needed to determine how much rainfall makes the beaches unsafe, as currently it happens only on Tuesdays. Another volunteer may be needed to accomplish this. Marc asked if we would test Laite Beach alone, or also the beaches on Megunticook. We agreed it would be important to have data for each site.

David explained how the wastewater treatment system works. A few things we learned: a) pharmaceuticals are an issue because the bacteria do not consume them. (The frequent collection programs by police departments are an effort to help stop people from flushing pills.) b) the treated effluent goes into the harbor near Wayfarer. c) materials that are not digested by the bacteria are composted in Unity.

Dave also mentioned the Fish & Wildlife Department has a permitting program to control Canada geese population by adding eggs. He brought up the pump out boat and we asked about the dyes that go into boat heads when they enter the harbor. Dave said this kind of testing would be very helpful, as just one boat can cause contamination. Vicki asked if Steve Pixley (harbormaster) was the one who would implement this testing, and Dave said yes. We may want to follow up with Steve – Vicki will do this.

A field trip to the Wastewater Treatment plant will be scheduled in the future. We thanked Dave and he left at 8:05 pm.

3. **CCC Treasurer:** Needed, but we decided to wait a month since we will have another new member.

**4. Solid Waste Mgmt:** Alison gave an update, explaining that the last meeting lasted four hours, and that the vote to not put the MRC Fiberright out to voters was a tie, and that it now goes back to the selectboards. It is unclear as to what will happen.

**5. Camden Land Survey:** Roger showed Marc and Wayne our map with member assignments. We discussed Sagamore Farm and a discussion/site walk Roger had with Morgan Laidlaw regarding trails and bridges. Roger said there are beautiful trails and that this is town owned property. Roger would like to get a map done of the trails.

Marc had a recent update to add to the discussion. He is a member of the Energy Committee and said they have been looking to create a solar farm. They have looked at 4 sites and Sagamore Farm has come back as a good spot. Revision Energy has offered to build the solar farm at no cost to the town. He will give a presentation at the next Selectboard meeting. Marc suggested that Roger attend the next energy committee meeting so that efforts are coordinated.

**6. Storm Water Drain project:** Roger made a motion that we spend up to \$125 from our reserve account to support the project. Doug seconded. After a brief discussion we voted - unanimous. Alison will check with Rick Seibel and then purchase paint and stencil kits. On August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at 79 Mechanic Street Roger and Alison (and anyone else who wants to help) will start stenciling.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted, Vicki Doudera, Secretary