

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting -
August 26, 2015
Washington Street Conference Room

Members present: Robin Kern, Tom Hopps, Chair Doug Johnson, And Roger Rittmaster Not present: Kristen Lindquist, Carla Ferguson

Guest presenter: Bart Wood, Camden Tree Warden

Minutes of July 1,2015 meeting were read and approved. No Treasurer's report.

PESTS THREATENING THE TREES OF MAINE

Doug reported identifying wooly adelgid on a hemlock at The Little Dream B&B in Camden and that he had reported it to the State.

Following up on Lorraine Taft's Threatening Pest's report at the last meeting, Bart Wood was asked to tell us his experience with the threat in Camden.

The Town charter states; "The Tree Warden as an official of the Town of Camden, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, shall have the care and control of all public shade trees upon and along Town roads and public rights of way and in the parks and public lands of the Town of Camden, and that official shall enforce all laws relating to the preservation and maintenance of public trees."

Bart Wood presented his Plan for Invasive Forest Pests Action Plan which was accepted with the minor changes he will make in it.

Roger will talk with Bret Willard at Merryspring Nature Park concerning what is being done there about invasive tree pests.

Doug will bring the 1994 Camden Tree Inventory to the next meeting.

Robin proposed that a Nature Walk be devoted to inspecting certain trees for the possible presence of pests.

Doug will call the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions to ask if any Commission in Maine is monitoring for winter moth, hemlock wooly adelgid, Asian long horned beetle, emerald ash borer, or others.

EROSION AT THE SNOW BOWL

Tom read an email from Lee Schneller Sligh to CCC in which she noted " at least 11 major erosion and sedimentation events at the Snow Bowl since June 2014.

I know this because I was told so by Pat Finnegan and Will Gartley, who met with me on site at their request on June 26th, at which time we reviewed the damage, which was extremely extensive and resulted in a large amount of sediment getting into protected wetlands and into Hosmer Pond."

She noted further that she had reviewed the entire DEP file prepared by Dawn Hallowell, the DEP enforcement manager in charge of the Snow Bowl case, made some direct quotes from Hallowell's

handwritten field notes, one of which, "Tried to explain to Town that this discharge was foreseeable and avoidable. Same mistake as last visit (6/5/15) open ditch. Plan for rain events. Each discharge increases fines." Also noted, there are now algae blooms in Hosmer Pond..."

Following discussion of the issues raised, Roger will arrange a meeting with Pat Finnegan for a Snow Bowl update.

OTHER

Doug will look into the feasibility of his leading a tree walk at Coastal Botanical Gardens.

The next Nature Walk will be September 5th at Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast.

Next meeting will be October 7th.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Hopps, Secretary