

Camden Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting – August 30, 2016
Katharine Aldridge Tucker Room, Opera House

Members present: Roger Rittmaster (Chair), Alison McKellar, Vicki Doudera, Wayne Ruesswick , Seth Meyer. Members absent: Doug Johnson. Others present: Marc Ratner (Selectman Liason).

NOTE: Action items are underlined.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the July 27 meeting were approved by e-mail.
2. We introduced Seth and then discussed the vacancy on our committee due to Kristen's resignation. We will see what happens and if anyone with interest comes forward. Meanwhile, we need a treasurer. Roger explained that we need someone who puts together a budget for our various activities. Seth agreed to take this on. Thanks, Seth!
3. Vicki went over some action items from last month's meeting. Marc reported on the Revision Energy solar farm, Chip Laite's involvement, and triple phase electricity. Unclear what will happen in the future with this property, but it would be great to just get the solar farm accomplished. September 13 will be a workshop with the Selectboard to discuss several topics, including this. Seth asked about the trail system, and Wayne and Roger explained it. Roger got a map done and will forward it to all of us.
4. Brainstorming about harbor cleanup: it is a multi-pronged approach, and we feel that rather than do more testing, we'd like to address some of the known contaminants. Various aspects of this complex issue were then discussed:
 - Wayne stopped at the middle school to talk about seventh grader science and art teachers about stormwater drainage and getting it part of the curriculum.
 - Wayne, Allison, and Roger discussed the first outing to do stormwater stenciling. One woman was not happy. Allison has also contacted the downtown design group for their input, and suggests we have a call for artists' suggestions. Another stenciling session will be scheduled.
 - Alison will bring some draft designs on the waterfowl feeding to the design committee as well.
 - Seth is going to talk to Drew Lyman about reminding people about the free harbor pump out boat.
 - Vicki reported on her conversation with Steve Pixley and the tablets. She was very encouraged with his support of trying it – and will talk to him about the harbor committee. She will also talk to Bill, acting Beach Master, about posting the beach. Do we post routinely if there is half-inch or greater within 24 hours? Does he do it? Or do we have a cautionary sign that just warns people?
 - Another source of pollution – medications – Wayne will talk to the police about how it works to drop off old pharmaceuticals.
 - Roger brought up septic systems that have failed and that may affect Megunticook Lake.

He offered to start looking into this.

Old Business:

A field trip to the Wastewater Treatment plant will be scheduled in the future. Roger will arrange it.

We also talked about buffers to keep out geese on the lake and river. A simple vegetative buffer will keep geese away.. Alison suggested that Shirttail Point set an example and put up a buffer.

It was agreed that Vicki and Roger would work on an article for the papers regarding the commission's focus on water quality issues in the harbor and watershed, stressing our wish to cooperate with other town committees. A draft will be sent around and if you have any updates from any action items in these minutes, they will be incorporated into the article.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted, Vicki Doudera, Secretary