

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of Meeting - March 30, 2016  
Washington Street Conference Room

Members present: Roger Rittmaster (Chair), Robin Kern, Doug Johnson, Kristen Lindquist, Tom Hopps, Alison McKellar  
Members absent: Vicki Doudera, Carla Ferguson  
Others present: Leonard Lookner, Select Board liaison, Landon Fake, Director, Parks and Recreation

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) The minutes of the February 24 meeting were approved by e-mail.
- 2) Ash Tree Survey. Anticipating the Ash Tree Borer invading this area CCC is currently surveying public Ash trees in Camden. The fourth stage of this survey will be conducted by Doug, Roger and Tom, April 4 starting at 3pm.
- 3) Coastal Mountains Nature Walks. Doug Johnson will be leading the first walk of the year on tree identification entitled, "Barks and Buds", this Saturday (April 2) from 10 a.m. to noon at Merryspring Nature Center.
- 4) Park-John Streets Walking Trail. Roger will meet with Geoff Scott, Chair of Camden/Rockport Pathways Committee, to discuss collaboration between the Committees on this project.
- 5) Camden Natural Lands Inventory . Regarding CCC assessment of significant undeveloped lands in Camden, each member is covering different areas of town; Doug, Harbor shore south; Tom, John/Pearl Streets; Robin, Hosmer Pond Road; Kristen, Snow Bowl; Vicky, Megunticook Lake; Carla, Megunticook River; Roger, Camden Hills State Park surround; Alison, Penobscot Bay shore including Harbor. The specific areas are delineated on the accompanying map.

Roger distributed a list of land parcels exempt from taxes to assist in the assessment process. Roger asked that one member report on his/her area each meeting. He will be the first at next meeting. The purpose of this project is to discover lands worthy of conserving for public use. Landon volunteered to distribute two related lists of Camden Park Lands and annual work plans for such lands (Note: Landon please confirm whether these are correct).

Roger also will invite Ian Stewart, Executive Director of Coastal Mountains Land Trust, to give a presentation to the Committee on what CMLT is working on in Camden.

- 6) Camden Harbor Water Quality. Camden Harbor is one of the most polluted harbors in Maine, as judged by water quality measurements at Laite Beach. Alison notes that bacteria counts have increased principally after periods of rain, leading to the conclusion that storm water is a major source of pollution. Alison presented a draft flier as a step toward developing an educational effort to discourage people from dumping any material into storm drains because storm drains go directly into Camden Harbor and the Bay. Alison has discussed this educational effort with the relevant individuals in Camden and will be presenting this proposal to the Select Board at its

meeting on April 5, 2016. As a first step in the educational effort, the proposed flier would be distributed with the next billing for wastewater treatment.

During the discussion, Robin suggested that CCC consider sponsoring a tour of possible toxic waste sites in Camden.

At the next meeting, Kristen will present her educational piece on why not to feed wild ducks.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- 7) Budget. Roger received a call from Anita Brosius-Scott of the Budget Committee, asking why the CCC was requesting a \$200 increase in the CCC budget. (Note: this request was initially made in September, 2014). Roger asked Robin, the CCC treasurer, to respond to Anita. Robin noted that since that request was made, we learned that the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions no longer exists thus negating our annual dues to it of \$195. Hence, the CCC annual budget of \$300 should be adequate for the coming fiscal year.
- 8) Documents distributed by Doug Johnson. Doug distributed two documents. The first is entitled, "What is a Conservation Commission", which was prepared in 1997 by the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions and was excerpted from "The Maine Manual for Conservation Commissions". Essentially a "Conservation Commission is the only municipal body appointed specifically to oversee and protect the municipality's natural resources. Commissions have been referred to as the environmental conscience of a community." A PDF copy of this document accompanies these minutes. (Post-meeting note: Roger has provided the original 1987 Maine Conservation Commission Law to accompany these minutes.)

The other document describes the composition and purpose of The Camden Conservation Commission adopted by the voters of The Town of Camden on June 8, 1999. This document also accompanies these minutes.

- 9) Other suggestions.
  - a. Leonard suggested in future years that the CCC sponsor a public Earth Day event.
  - b. Leonard also suggested that the CCC might try to establish an endowment fund to provide an ongoing budget for the Commission.
  - c. Landon recommended that a CCC member attend at least some Parks and Recreation Committee meetings (and vice versa), in order that the two committees know what each other is doing. Roger agreed to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting next Wednesday.

The next meeting will be April 27, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Hopps, Secretary