

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING 05/29/2013

Minutes of meeting held May 29, 2013, from 7:00 to 9:30 PM

Camden Conservation Commission (CCC) members present: Doug Johnson (chairman), Roger Rittmaster, Carla Ferguson, Barbara Melchiskey, Robin Kern

Not present: Nancy Caudle-Johnson (Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator)

OLD BUSINESS:

-The minutes of the meeting held on 04/17/13 were approved.

-Doug described the Arbor Day Celebration, held on May 26th, as a success. Included in this celebration was a walk, led by Doug, to Norumbega Inn, whose new owner – Phillip Crispo –described the significance of Camperdown elms in his life. It is planned that Mr. Crispo will submit the first heritage tree application under the new Camden Heritage Tree Project; the application will be for the Camperdown elm that graces the front of the inn.

-Doug mentioned that he and Roger attended a meeting for working groups on the riverwalk and public landing projects. At this meeting, for each project, ten of the most recurrent public suggestions were listed. For the riverwalk project, a number of these suggestions focused on the tannery property as a place for a trail head or gathering spot or park. Doug described that he commented at the meeting that because of this public interest in the tannery property being used for public purposes rather than private, the fact that the property was up for sale posed a problem. There was no response to this comment at the work group meeting. CCC members then discussed at length a proposal to suggest a moratorium on the sale of this property. This led to the unanimous passage of the following motion, which was made by Barbara and seconded by Carla:

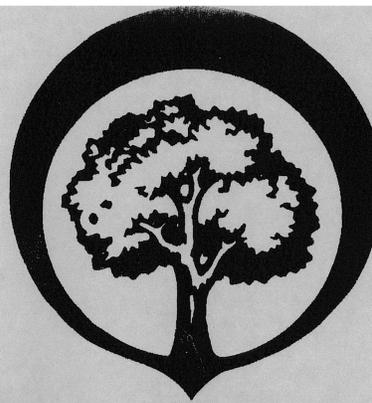
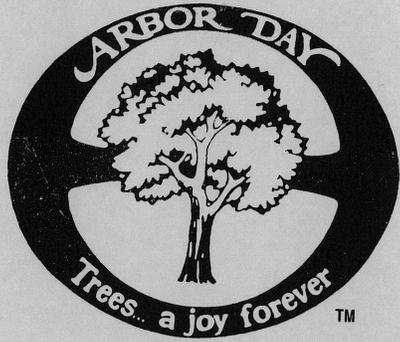
Whereas: the Town of Camden is considering the development of a walk along the Megunticook River, and
Whereas: public meetings have been held to study the desires and concerns of the Town's citizens about this project, which revealed a strong desire for an alternative plan to the sale of the Tannery Property, therefore

The Camden Conservation Committee moves to ask the Camden Select Board to consider a moratorium on the sale of the Tannery Property until a final plan for the Riverwalk Project is presented to the Town.

Finally, Roger described his idea for a series of walks, sponsored by CCC, organized around the general theme of natural history and including such walks as a tree walk, an insect and butterfly walk (which Roger already plans to lead in July at the Snow Bowl) and a mushroom walk, to name but a few. He envisions that CCC members and others will lead these walks. CCC members were enthusiastic about Roger's idea, wholeheartedly supporting his endeavor.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10th at 7 PM.

Submitted by Robin Kern, secretary.



TREE CITY USA®

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM - CAMDEN, MAINE

CAMDEN'S 19TH ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 26, 2013, 1 p.m.

HARBOR PARK and "NORUMBEGA"

Celebrating our 18th year as a TREE CITY USA - 1995-2012!

- AT HARBOR PARK -

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION - Don White, Camden Selectboard

TREE CITY USA AWARD - Nancy Caudle-Johnson, Arbor Day and Tree City USA Coordinator
Camden's Tree Program and Project Canopy grants to establish a Camden Heritage Tree Register and plant trees in the downtown area

CAMDEN'S HERITAGE TREE REGISTER - Robin Kern, Camden Conservation Commission and Nancy Caudle-Johnson, Project Coordinators

GUIDED TREE WALK - HARBOR PARK TO NORUMBEGA - Arborist Douglas N. Johnson
*Walk (Doug Johnson will point out significant trees along the way)
or drive to Norumbega Castle on High Street.*

*Camden Amphitheater - four Camperdown elms; Atlantic Ave. - large Norway maple;
Sea St. - pin oak, large white ash, triple trunked linden, flowering cherry;
High St. - large red oak, large black locust, metasequoia, large Norway spruces, large horse chestnut,
large copper beech, large red pine, large white ash, two ginkgos;
Norumbega - two Camperdown elms*

- AT NORUMBEGA -

ORIGINS OF THE CAMPERDOWN ELM - Douglas N. Johnson

A personal story about the CAMPERDOWN ELM at NORUMBEGA and CAMPERDOWN PARK in DUNDEE, SCOTLAND - Phillip Crispo, Norumbega

TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation, is administered in Maine by the Dept. of Conservation. To qualify, a community must have a tree ordinance; an official tree board; proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day; and expend at least two dollars per capita on its tree program. On May 20, Camden received the *Tree City USA* award at Maine's Arbor Week ceremony. Camden's *Tree City USA* award is on display in the town office, and during Maine's Arbor Week (the third full week in May) the *Tree City USA* flag flies over the town office building.

MAINE'S 18 TREE CITIES (and years as a Tree City)

Farmington - 19	Kennebunkport - 18	Westbrook - 36	Orono - 17	Yarmouth - 34	Bath - 16	Portland, So. - 33	Waterville - 15	Hallowell - 11
Auburn - 10	Lewiston - 10	Bangor - 9	Hampden - 6	Castine - 4	Saco - 3			

CAMDEN'S TREE BOARD & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Douglas N. Johnson, chair, Robin Kern, secretary/treasurer, Carla Ferguson, David Kern,
Barbara Melchiskey, Roger Rittmaster
Nancy Caudle-Johnson - Arbor Day and Tree City USA Coordinator

The Camden Herald

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF APPLETON, CAMDEN, HOPE, LINCOLNVILLE AND ROCKPORT FOR 144 YEARS

Heritage Tree Registry to spotlight Camden's special trees

BY SARAH E. REYNOLDS

CAMDEN — "It's quite an honor," for the town of Camden to be recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, said Conservation Commission member and Arbor Day Coordinator Nancy Caudle-Johnson. The town has received the designation for 18 years in a row, one of about a dozen and a half municipalities in Maine so honored, she said.

To be named a Tree City USA, cities and towns must have a tree board, must officially proclaim Arbor

Day and have a celebration, have a tree ordinance and spend at least \$2 per capita on a municipal tree program, Caudle-Johnson explained.

This year's Arbor Day celebration will take place Sunday, May 26, beginning at 1 p.m. in Harbor Park, rain or shine. After a brief ceremony and reading of the Arbor Day proclamation by Select Board member Don White, there will be a kickoff ceremony for the town's Heritage Tree Registry at Norumbega Inn.

Conservation Commission Chairman and Arborist Douglas N. Johnson will lead

a 10- to 15-minute walk from Harbor Park to Norumbega, pointing out special trees along the way, said Caudle-Johnson. She explained the town received a Project Canopy grant of \$5,600 from the Maine Forest Service and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to create the Heritage Tree Registry as a way to highlight trees that are significant because of their size, unusual species for the area, history, location or "just a particular favorite." The grant paid for the production of a brochure describing the trees — Caudle-

Johnson expects there to be about 15 of trees featured — that will form a self-guided walking tour. She said 10,000 copies of the brochure will be printed. To fulfill the matching requirement for the grant, Caudle-Johnson said, \$6,400 of in-kind donations were received.

She said the Camperdown elm at Norumbega will be among the trees on the registry, and mentioned that, coincidentally, Phillip Crispo, the property's new owner, is from Scotland, and had visited

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Camperdown Park in Dundee, where the first Camperdown elm was bred, as a child.

Heritage Registry nomination forms will be available the third week in June, said Caudle-Johnson. She also mentioned that the library amphitheater, a National Historic Landmark, also has four specimens of this unusual weeping elm.

Douglas N. Johnson said the Camperdown elm, a variety of Scottish elm, was first created in the 19th century by grafting a cutting from a dwarf elm onto a normal-size specimen on the grounds of what was then Camperdown Castle. Specimens in the United States, he said, are generally created by grafting onto an American elm. One advantage these trees have, he said, is that they are not vulnerable to the Dutch elm disease that killed so many trees in the past. He added that the elm at Norumbega may be the largest of its species in Maine.

As partners in the Heritage Tree Registry, the Conservation Commission has enlisted Camden Public Library, Penobscot Bay Chamber of Commerce, Camden Herald and several area schools, she said.

Caudle-Johnson expressed appreciation for the support of Town Manager Patricia Finnigan and Development Director Brian Hodges.

This is also the time of year when volunteers with Camden Shade Tree Program plant trees around town. Dale Bruce, Camden Garden Club Shade Tree Program chairwoman, said the program focuses on areas that are bare or need softening, such as the edges of parking lots. Originally implemented following the Dutch elm blight of the 1970s to replace trees killed by disease, the program instituted

some changes this year, she said.

Up to now, Bruce explained, the program has offered trees to Camden homeowners and businesses at a third of their cost, with the result that, "hundreds of trees have been planted throughout town," she said in an email. As in 2012, this year the town of Camden was awarded an \$8,000 Project Canopy Grant by the Maine Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service for tree planting and maintenance.

However, this year, the grant requirements state the trees must be planted in the downtown business area, Bruce said in her email. Because the funding is a matching grant, Camden Garden Club, the town of Camden and the Downtown Business Group each contributed \$1,100 to make up the match, Bruce said.

Since this year's trees are significantly larger than those planted last year, and Shade Tree Program members are responsible for watering them — previously, homeowners and businesses watered the trees after planting — fewer trees will be planted this year than in the past, Bruce explained.

She said the six trees to be planted, probably within the next week or so, will include a Princeton elm in front of the library, a pair of paperbark maples at the corner of Wood and Chestnut streets, on the slope bordering the parking lot of St. Thomas' church, and three golden raindrops crabapples in the parking lot border along Mechanic Street across from Knox Mill. Hoboken Gardens staff will plant the trees.

Asked about the importance of the town's being named a Tree City USA, Caudle-Johnson said, "it means a city really cares about trees."

Memorial Day Observances — see page 7

THE TREE PRESSES



THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013

13,000 Circulation • Serving Midcoast Maine since 1985 • www.freepressonline.com

VOL. 29 NO. 21

Camden's Arbor Day Observance to Take Place May 26 at Harbor Park & Norumbega

Camden's annual Arbor Day program will begin at Harbor Park on Atlantic Avenue at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, rain or shine. After a brief ceremony led by Selectman Don White, arborist and Camden Conservation Commission chair Douglas Johnson will lead a 10- to 15-minute walk to Norumbega on High Street to kick off Camden's new Heritage Tree Registry program. Johnson will point out special trees along the way, though for those who wish to drive, parking will be available at Norumbega.

Norumbega's new owner Phillip Crispo hails from Scotland,

and he will tell the story of the Camperdown elm in Camperdown Park in Dundee, Scotland, and his discovery after buying Norumbega of the Camperdown elm on his property.

The Camden Conservation Commission has received a Project Canopy grant to establish a Camden Heritage Tree Registry. Arbor Day and Tree City USA coordinator Nancy Caudle-Johnson and Conservation Commission member Robin Kern are leading the project and will have registry nomination forms available in June.

For more information, call 236-6855.



Camden plans Arbor Day ceremony

BY STEPHEN BETTS
BDN STAFF

CAMDEN — The town's annual Arbor Day celebration will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday at Harbor Park on Atlantic Avenue.

After a brief ceremony in which Select Board member Don White will read a proclamation, the new owner of The Norumbega Inn, Phillip Crispo, will speak about Camperdown elms.

Arborist and Conservation Commission member Douglas Johnson will lead a walk of Norumbega's grounds.

The Conservation Commission received a Project Canopy grant to establish a Camden Heritage Tree Registry, according to a news release from Nancy Caudle-Johnson, who organizes the Arbor Day event.

For information, call 236-6855.