

TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(Commission)
Town of Cumberland
290 Tuttle Road
Cumberland, ME 04021

Date: March 8, 2024

(* = Chair; + = liaison TC; ++=Code enforcement officer)

Chris Bolduc; Bill Longley ++(abs); Mark Segrist +(abs); Tig Filson+;

To: Members:

Commission

David Cowan, Denny Gallaudet, Ellen Hoffman, John Jensenius ^{vice*}, Riva Krut,
Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, *Mike Schwindt, Joshua Steirman, George Turner (abs), Pete Wilson (abs),
David Young

Forest Subcommittee

Melissa Cott, *Gordon Lichter ✓, Todd Ontl, Linda Putnam, Sally Stockwell

Invasive Subcommittee

*David Cowan, Khristopher Lalemand, Daniel Sites

Orchard Subcommittee

Adam Blackwell, Michelle Gardiner, Betsey Harding, Will Harper, *Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Denise
Thorsson

Sustainability Subcommittee

Sukie Curtis, *Denny Gallaudet, Riva Krut, Jesse Lamarre-Vincent, Meddy Smith, Dave Witherill

Trails Subcommittee

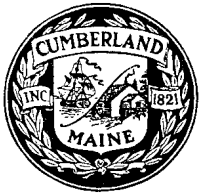
Shaun Breton, Paige Diamant, Stephen Fitzgerald, David Grimm, *John Jensenius,
Adam Orellana, Brian Stearns, Don Stowell ✓

Note: Only members of the Commission and voting members of the subcommittees need attend. "✓" indicates subcommittee member attended Commission meeting.

From: Ellen Hoffman

Re: Meeting March 6, 2024

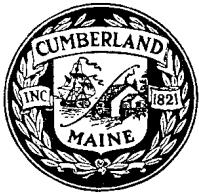
- The second version of the February minutes were approved as written (those containing Riva's comments). Riva moved to accept; Dave C seconded; unanimous; no discussion.
- Penny Asherman of CCLT was in attendance.
- Town Council (Tig)
 - Mark is not in attendance because he broke his leg.
 - Drowne Rd referendum did not pass.
 - Budget meetings will be held 5:00 – 6:30 on Town Council meeting nights.
 - March 25
 - April 8
 - April 22 Town Manager budget presentation
 - May 13 Public Hearing on adoption of FY 25 budget



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

○ Bill Report (from Bill L's handout)

- During the month of February 2024, Bill's office issued 17 permits for new buildings such as for pools, sheds, decks, houses, condos, barns, additions, renovations, commercial and solar installations.
- Approve projects under construction:
 - Oceanview phase 2- 18/52 permits have been issued
 - Christmas Creek – Vining Way – 19 of 20 are completed
 - Orchard Road – Cortland Court – 8 of 10 building permits issued as of this date
 - Snowy Owl off Old Gray Road –10 units approved; still blasting
 - The Mark off Route One– 45 units are now under construction;
 - Ross Estates off Blanchard Road Ext.-3 Units approved; pre-con complete; meeting to be held between Town, developer and LCC to discuss open space. Important parcel for trail connectivity.
 - Yarmouth Vet at Heritage Village – pre-con complete. Blasting complete.
 - White Rock off Skyview Drive – 55 units of senior housing awaiting MSHA. **White Rock off Skyview more than likely not be built.**
 - Lot split of existing subdivision by amendment at 104 Foreside Road; pre-con March 6, 2024.
- Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 19, 2024 at 7pm; workshop at 6:30 PM for an eight-lot Conservation Subdivision off Harris Rd. Denny will attend.
 - Public Hearing for sketch plan for 72 units (36 will be “affordable”) in Chase Pit at 77 Blackstrap Road with public water from the Portland Water District extended from the West Cumberland Fire Station.
 - Public Hearing for change in hours of operation in the TCD as referred to the Planning Board from Town Council.
- Future Planning Board items:
 - Public Hearing for Rusty Lantern convenience store with fuel pumps and a bank with drive through at 181 Gray Road.
- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (2022)
 - Heat pumps (homes) issued calendar YTD = 206
 - Solar issued calendar YTD = 055
 - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 009
- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (2023)
 - Heat pumps (homes) issued calendar YTD = 223
 - Solar issued calendar YTD = 059
 - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 016



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Heat pump, solar, car charger permits (through February 29, 2024)
 - Heat pumps (homes) issued calendar YTD = 015
 - Solar issued calendar YTD = 006
 - Car chargers issued calendar YTD = 005

See below



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

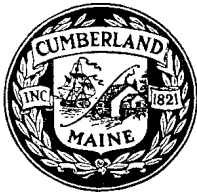
(Commission)

Feb 2024 Electrical permits for solar-heat pump-generator

BASIC INFO RECORD #	ELECTRICAL PERMIT ID	DATE ISSUED	DESCRIPTION	ELECTRICIAN	FINANCED C/L	FEE	NOTES	OWNER	LOCATION
2096	24-037	06-Feb-24	1 heat pump	Dave Perry-RHP	\$0.00	\$50.00	One angle zone heat pump system	SHUMADINE JOHN & CATHERINE	106 RAVINE DRIVE
46	24-032	01-Feb-24	2 heat pumps	Geoff Gregory-Edge Energy	\$0.00	\$50.00	Two angle heat pump systems	BARBARA PATRICK & ESTY-BARBARA KRISTIN	13 MURFIELD ROAD
450	24-038	06-Feb-24	2 heat pumps	Dave Perry-RHP	\$0.00	\$50.00	Two angle zone heat pump systems	PICKLES CHRISTOPHER & EVANS MARGARET	78 ORCHARD ROAD
284	24-053	13-Feb-24	2 heat pumps	Joe Falcone	\$0.00	\$100.00	two heat pumps after the fact double fee	BRUDER KAREN L	237 RANGE ROAD
183	24-057	22-Feb-24	2-heat Pumps	Thomas Stetard	\$0.00	\$50.00		DRAEGER JEFFREY & WHEREATT JENNIFER	12 BIRCH LANE
474	24-048	12-Feb-24	Cooper Creek Electric		\$0.00	\$0.00	1572 sf new addition and no new service William Stetson Electrician	PATRIQUIN ALLEN & JEANNE	10 FLINTLOCK DRIVE
2301	24-036	06-Feb-24	EV Charger	Joshua Duch-Pargen Electrical Services	\$0.00	\$50.00		WARNER MATTHEW & BRIANNA	130 RANGE ROAD
1967	24-043	08-Feb-24	EV Charger	David Perry-RHP	\$0.00	\$50.00		BOEHMKE PAUL	171 RANGE ROAD
566	24-039	07-Feb-24	Generator	J. P. Electric - Jeffrey Poland	\$0.00	\$50.00		MICHAUD JOSEPH & JAVIE	21 PINE LANE
3081	24-055	01-Feb-24	SOLAR	William LeMay- Revision	\$0.00	\$50.00	New solar 30 roof mounted panels	MURPHY KAREN	8 ISLAND VIEW DRIVE
4482	24-059	15-Feb-24	SOLAR	DEVLIN	\$0.00	\$50.00	14 Panels roof mounted 5.67 KW DC	ROBERTS, GREGORY	17 CLIPPER STREET
316	24-060	28-Feb-24	SOLAR	Maine Solar Solutions	\$0.00	\$50.00	8 Panels roof mounted 4.36 KW	SWEETSER CONSTANCE & EERN	19 BLANCHARD ROAD
2468	24-061	28-Feb-24	SOLAR	VENTURE SOLAR	\$0.00	\$50.00		STONUT MARK J	81 BLACKSTAR ROAD

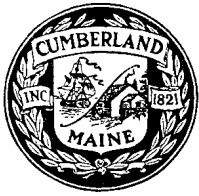
Feb 2024 Building Permits for solar for LCC dated 3-06-24

BUILDING PERMIT	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACTOR	CONTACTOR PHO	PERMIT ISSUED	PERMIT EXPIRES	ESTIMATED COST	FEE	Conditions
24-035	SOLAR	VENTURE SOLAR, LLC	207-468-7686	28-Feb-24	28-Aug-24	\$19,813.50	\$277.38	Issued Subject to MUBEC and IRC-2015 as adopted by the State of Maine 9 Solar panels 3.83 KW
24-036	SOLAR	Maine Solar Solutions	207-331-4897	28-Feb-24	28-Aug-24	\$15,000.00	\$210.00	Issued subject to MUBEC and IRC-2015 as adopted by the State of Maine 8 Panels KW-- 4.36
24-033	SOLAR	DEVLIN CONTRACTING	781-812-0240	27-Feb-24	27-Aug-24	\$25,237.00	\$364.00	5.67 KW Issued subject to MUBEC and the IRC-2015 as adopted by the State of Maine
24-027	SOLAR	REVISION ENERGY	207-517-5247	14-Feb-24	01-Aug-24	\$39,690.00	\$555.76	12.15 KW roof mounted solar with 30 panels. Subject to MUBEC and the IRC-2015 as adopted by the State of Maine



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Public Works - Chris mentioned work in Town Forest cutting invasives. Phragmites will be cut this spring. Public Works also cut along the Dog Trail on the Greely Rd side of Twin Brook.
 - Food Waste - Denny working with the schools in an effort to get the students composting food waste. The schools gave the go ahead. The challenge is getting the kids to participate. Will use Garbage to Gardens who will bring to town composting facility. The schools need to work on the contamination issue.
 - March 19th workshop with Planning Board regarding Conservation Subdivision on Harris Rd.
 - Note – for the time being, the issue of moving (or adding new) ballfields is off the table. Possible workshop in the future to discuss funding, sources and location.
- Commission (Mike)
- Walker Newell resigned from Trails Subcommittee. John made motion to accept Walker's resignation; Gordon seconded, unanimous.
 - FY 25 workplan and budget – Asked Town Council for \$40,000 plus the roll up money from FY 23.
 - Riva - about the staff person, the \$10,000 for a contract person to help with finding and applying for grants.
 - Mike – request was never put in budget.
 - Penny – GPCOG provides support to North Yarmouth and Chebeague Island.
 - Dave C- we could use some support on the admin side of things
 - Tig – What we are working on are really regional efforts. Look into cost savings with neighbors. Big ask, time and effort; combine resources.
 - Dave C – We need a Conservation Officer – work on all matters like sustainability and conservation, similar to Falmouth.
 - Chris – need to bring forward in budget. Perhaps collaborate with other departments or towns, multiple roles.
 - Josh – intermediate step, not necessarily full time
 - Mike - \$10,000 contracted services in budget, maybe work with another town.
 - Riva – see if GPCOG has a point person we can use; finding additional sources of money.
 - Tig – suggest using Paul L, very passionate and knows our spaces. His role as New Gloucester selectman is almost over. He understands cost savings – when is best to apply certain practices.
 - Josh – consider using Land Trust (Penny said Land Trust very busy)
 - Gordon – Paul L is very busy



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Jesse made motion to approve FY 25 work plan and \$40,000 budget, Riva seconded; motion carries unanimously.
- See workplan and budget below:

Your Lands and Conservation Commission, at its 3/6 meeting, approved a \$40,000 budget request for Fiscal Year 2025. This request is for the same funding level as has been appropriated to us for the last two years.

Our \$40,000 funding request is for the following units:

Commission	12,509
Trails	5,000
Forest	6,100
Sustainability	1,000
Invasives	10,391
Community Orchard	5,000

Our FY '25 work plan, which was also approved at that meeting, contemplates using essentially the entire balance of carry forward funds from earlier budget periods. Combined, the majority of the budget will be used for invasive control in our town.

Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan and Budget Request 3/6/24

Commission

During the 2025 Fiscal Year the LCC will:

- Support and provide guidance to the Subcommittees in meeting their approved workplans for the year.
- Maintain butterfly garden, peony garden plus pollinator garden at Val Halla.
- Propose putting conservation easements on Twin Brook and the Town Forest.
- Work with the Planning Board when housing projects are proposed to ensure the conservation subdivision provisions are implemented and other natural resource protections (e.g., for wetlands, vernal pools, protected species, etc.) are observed.
- Provide public information at least quarterly to inform the citizenry of our activities.
- Consider doing a survey to determine the future direction of the LCC and its subcommittees.
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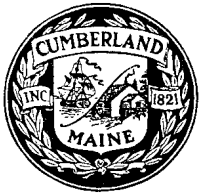
Budget (\$17,900 – Same)

- Signage \$650
- Sightings \$250
- Food independence \$2,000
- Invasives \$5,000
- Contracted Services \$10,000

Community Orchard

July - Preparing rows and building trellises for future grape and berry plantings in spring 2025

August - Holding a seminar on pollinator support, and how to build in additional pollinator habitat through thoughtful plantings. Continuing work on initial orchard establishment.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

September - Holding a seminar on companion planting, what species to plant along with trees in the orchard.

October - Propagation seminar to teach residents about various techniques to grow more plants through various methods.

November - Collecting seed for spring propagation from butterfly garden, peony garden, and wild seed plants at orchard.

December - Educational seminar in partnership with Prince Memorial Library tbd.

January - Educational seminar in partnership with Prince Memorial Library tbd.

February - Educational seminar on pollinator support plants and seed swap in partnership with Prince Memorial Library.

March - Grafting workshop to start nursery trees for planting in the orchard in the following year

April - Holding a seminar on building air prune boxes for young tree starts.

May - Second round of tree planting. Holding a seminar on planting grapes, berry bushes and other support species in the orchard.

June - Continued work on orchard maintenance and establishment. Assess the need for additional benches/tables etc. for community gathering space and begin community builds of such items.

Budget (Same \$5000) to support ongoing orchard maintenance and growth including;

- Additional tree, shrub, and support plant purchases
- Tool and irrigation supply purchases as necessary
- Supplies and support for educational seminars for residents
- Develop an area for seedling tree nursery to support future tree planting around Cumberland as per Town Council adopted Climate Action Plan Phase 1, action item vii.
 - **Develop tree planting program for public ways and easements.** Continuing education and community outreach around ecologically productive landscape practices as per Town Council adopted Climate Action Plan Phase 2, action item 3.
 - **Adopt ecologically productive landscaping practices**

Sustainability

Proposed action items for the 2024-25 work plan are:

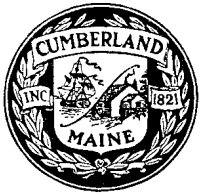
- Ordinance for phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers
- Completion of VRF installation in library
- Monitor/provide assistance for solar project at MSAD #51
- Local incentives for residential heat pumps - e.g. July special rebates
- Submit Project Canopy application for tree planting along roadways.

Budget request: \$1,000 for 10 July special heat pump rebates. (had 3,500)

Invasives

Work Plan:

1. Draft Town-wide management plan, review with LCC advisory group.
2. Subcommittee member recruitment and training
 - a. Advertise for open positions as needed.
 - b. MNAP Field Guide, IMapInvasives, home study resources and field training.
3. Basic Invasives Management Plan Template
 - a. Create or adopt an existing template suitable for use by non-professionals, residents, volunteers.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

4. Stewardship aka Adopt-a-Site
 - a. Each Subcommittee member or volunteer to adopt a parcel of their choice.
 - b. Conduct inventory and prepare a plan (using template).
 - c. Implement plan, track progress, record on IMapInvasives.
5. Inventory
 - a. Set up iMap Invasives "Projects".
 - b. Coordinate with MNAP for how-to and other details.
 - c. Coordinate with other land managers, Subcommittees, volunteers.
6. Work Days
 - a. Individual stewardship sites, additional Town and CCLT sites.
 - b. DPW licensed applicator to treat cut stems.
 - c. Outside contractor if DPW unavailable.
7. Professional Invasives Management Services
 - a. Prepare work scope and seek professional services to implement control of one or more high priority management units. e.g., Japanese knotweed along Town roads.
 - b. Research/seek grants and funding opportunities.
8. Outreach
 - a. Quarterly presentations and webinars, e.g., Amanda Devine, IMapInvasives, Invasives Management Planning for Landowners, Native plants and seeding, etc. Registration, record, post on YouTube.
 - b. Print, disseminate MNAP / Falmouth brochures via displays at Town Hall, Val Halla, etc.
 - c. Post interpretive signs where treatment is occurring.
 - d. Social media postings - Facebook, Instagram, Town Crier.
 - e. Review and improve Town Invasives website.
 - f. Coordinate with FNR Subcommittee, CCLT, MCHT, RRCT, Maine Audubon, neighboring towns, etc.
9. Prevention
 - a. Review Town ordinances, conservation subdivisions, site plan reviews, etc.
 - b. Include State list of outlawed plants in outreach messaging.
 - c. Contact local landscapers, nurseries, suppliers.

Budget - \$14,750

1. Tools & Equipment	\$ 750
a. Puller Bear, Safety gear (vests, glasses, gloves, hats), MNAP Field Guides	
2. Printing	\$ 1,500
a. Brochures and Signage	
3. Contractor Services	\$ 10,000
4. Plants and Seed	\$ 2,500

Trails

Rines Forest

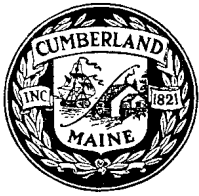
- Improve trail through Godsoe portion of property (possibly 1,300 feet of walkways)
- Improve and reroute waterfalls trail, close and restore steep section.
- Improve yellow trail (hopefully, Public Works)

Greely Woods

- Continue to harden trails where needed

Greely Woods Subdivision Easement - get it done - minus one homeowner

Knight's Pond



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

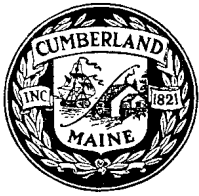
Continue to harden trails where needed

With JSC approval, begin work on accessible trail on southeast side of pond

Budget - \$5000 - for building materials and gravel (had \$5,500)

Forest

- Greely Woods plan - **\$1500 for Town Forester**
 - Create a general management plan for Greely Woods with a forest description section
- Town Forest - forest management plan update - **\$1500 for Town Forester**
 - Update the 2016 Town Forest plan recommendations
- Invasives
 - Signs for Rines Forest - **\$300**
 - Town Forest invasives spraying - **\$0 covered under town budget?**
 - Additional chemical treatment of the areas that have been ground
 - Rines Forest invasives grinding - **\$15,000 (10 days @ \$1500/day)**
 - Continue working with RAM Mulching to grind invasives based on priority areas - 5-10 additional days
 - Rines Forest invasives spraying - **\$9,000 (20 acres @ \$450/acre)**
 - Initial chemical treatment of the areas where invasives were ground - ~20 acres
 - Twin Brook grinding and spraying
 - Using town resources to begin grinding priority areas in summer 2024
 - Potentially following up with chemical application if time permits in fall 2024
 - Volunteer invasive days
 - Conduct periodic work days to tackle designated areas; open to the public as a participation/educational opportunity
 - Invasives education of neighboring properties where appropriate - **\$100 for mailers, possible to use something from the Invasives subcommittee**
 - If planning to grind areas of Rines Forest or Twin Brook along boundary lines, create and send educational materials about the activity and explain how those landowners can/should address the invasives on their properties (Working with the Invasives Subcommittee)
- Burning at Rines and Broad Cove (**TBD**)
 - Explore controlled burns at Broad Cove and at "the landing" at Rines Forest to remove piles of buckthorn that were pulled
- Researching opportunities around other natural resources in Cumberland (**TBD Ideas**)
 - Planning for sea level rise – best practices for managing bluff erosion and salt marsh migration.
 - Stream water quality - best practices for lawns, fertilizers, pesticides affecting water quality of streams and Casco Bay.
 - Stormwater runoff, importance of natural (wetlands) and constructed features in modulating runoff as severe storms become more frequent.
 - Dog waste and water quality. We have a system – how is it working? Can it be improved?
 - Impact of housecats on wildlife, encourage indoor cats.
 - Birds – strategies to reduce window strikes (municipal buildings, schools, advice for residents).
 - Status of deer herd, impact on native plant communities.
 - Vernal pools. We conducted a survey some years ago – should we consider updating?
- Web site changes

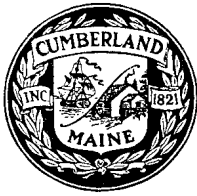


TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Ongoing improvements to the Forestry Subcommittee page on the Cumberland town website
- Town Forester general advisory and project management
 - Monthly meetings and travel - **\$1,200**
 - Overseeing and layout of grinding and spraying - **\$2,500**

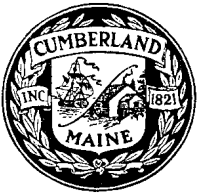
Budget - \$31,100

Cumulative budget request \$74,750



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

2024 March 6 LCC budget request for FY '25																
			Total		Food	Town			Forester		Twin		Knight's			
			General	Adjust	Independence	Forest	Invasives	Admin	#6340	Invasives	Brook	Trails #6330	Pond #8517	Sustain	Orchard	Invasives
Carryforward from '23			38,735					29,987	1,390			2,762	706	1,890	2,000	
FY '25 budget request			40,000													
Highest funding level			78,735													
Initial Budget request			74,750													
Slack			3,985													
Minus late payments			(2,500)													
Net elbow room			1,485													
FY '25 initial request			74,750					17,900	31,100			5,000		1,000	5,000	14,750
Adjust request																
Admin invasives				(5,000)				(5,000)								
Admin T. Forest				(391)		(391)										
Rines cutting/spraying				(25,000)					(25,000)							
Contractor services				(4,359)												(4,359)
Total Adjustment			(34,750)													
FY '25 request			40,000		-	(391)	-	12,900	6,100	-	-	5,000	-	1,000	5,000	10,391
Using FY '23 carry forward funds and FY '25 request, the FY Workplan would be funded as follows:																
Signage			650					650								
Sightings			250					250								
Food Independence			2,000		2,000											
Invasives			5,000				5,000									
Contracted Services			10,000					10,000								
Orchard			5,000												5,000	
Sustainability			1,000											1,000		
Invasives	Tools/equipment	750														750
	Printing	1,500														1,500
	Contractor service	10,000														10,000
	Plants/seeds	2,500														2,500
Trails		5,000										5,000				
Forest	Greely Woods	1,500							1,500							
	Town Forest	1,500							1,500							
	Rines Signage	300							300							
	Rines Grinding	15,000							15,000							
	Rines Spraying	9,000							9,000							
	Neighbor education	100							100							
	Meetings	1,200							1,200							
	Oversee spraying	2,500							2,500							
Total working budget for FY '25			74,750		2,000	-	5,000	10,900	6,700	24,400	-	5,000	-	1,000	5,000	14,750



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Tree City (Riva) – Town Council granted our Tree City proclamation. Next step – we need to establish an Arbor Day celebration – end of April. Need to put note in Crier. Need a work process to renew each year. The Town has the option to put up signs. Public Works needs to decide where to display signs – needs to be put on poles.

4 Northern **the** FORECASTER www.theforecaster.net

Arbor Day vote paves way for Cumberland to be Tree City

By Sydney Richelieu

The Cumberland Town Council voted unanimously Monday night to observe Arbor Day as a town holiday every April. Cumberland can now officially become a Tree City.

The Tree City USA program, administered by the Arbor Day Foundation, provides towns with a framework to maintain and grow their tree cover, and gives towns an opportunity to celebrate their work and commit to the mission of environmental change.

It's something that Cumberland has already been doing for a long time, Lands and Conservation Commission member Riva Krut said Monday night.

"Cumberland has made substantial investments in trees, trails and forests," Krut said. "The town elders have, for decades, been demonstrating the value of green space to the town."

In order to become a Tree City, Cumberland must adhere to four standards. Three were already being met. It has a tree board or department, in this case the LCC and its

subcommittees. It has a tree care ordinance and it spends at least \$2 per capita on trees.

All that was left was the Arbor Day proclamation and a couple of administrative steps and a payment of \$200, which the LCC will cover.

"It's really time for Cumberland to join," Krut said. "It's really low hanging fruit for us."

An annual Arbor Day observance in town could be a positive community event, said Denise Thorsson, a member of the LCC's orchard subcommittee.

"We have lots of space," she said. "We're already hosting a community event to plant trees."

The Town Council was all for allowing Cumberland to become a Tree City.

"I smiled when I first realized this was an Arbor Day proclamation," Chair Mark Segrist said. "I'm excited to be sitting here, I'm excited to push this forward tonight."

This year's Arbor Day falls on April 26.

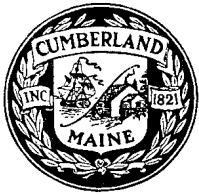
Sydney Richelieu — 207-689-2851
srichelieu@theforecaster.net

- Web Demo (John) – John gave a demo on the developments and improvements to the LCC website. He noted that the calendars sync up – our events will be on the Town's. He mentioned that Jesse will have to add the Orchard events to our calendar since those websites are not linked.



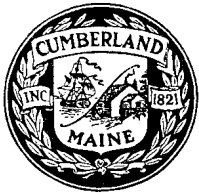
TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Trails Subcommittee (John)
 - Due to the wet weather, the trails are very wet. The early thaw is not helping either.
 - Homestead (off of Pleasant Valley Rd) – Planning on work needed to be done to tackle invasives.
 - Leashes – new animal control officer – not sure if will continue with leash program.
 - Rines Forest – John mentioned the blue ribbons are the survey markers for the wetlands. Not sure what to do with this information. Needs to be surveyed in the spring for vernal pools. Permit needed for construction in wetlands.
 - Penny mentioned that Falmouth closes trails when too wet. John prefers to monitor the trails rather than close.
- Forestry Subcommittee (Gordon):
 - The second draft of Paul's Town Forest and Rines Forest Invasive Management plans are ready for review. After review they will go to LCC for acceptance and then to Town Council. Once approved, then can apply for reimbursement from State.
 - Looking for one or two new members. Mike has a potential candidate.
 - Ellen mentioned that Paul is no longer needed for a walk around Town Hall to identify invasives vs native species since Public Works already cut the area in question.
 - Paul still needs to do a priority list.
- Sustainability Subcommittee (Denny) – no meeting held last month
- Community Orchard (Jesse)
 - Food Forest - Lawns Gone Wild talk last week had a great turnout.
 - Grafting of apples and pears workshop on the 16th – at PML.
 - April 28th water wise gardening workshop at the Orchard.
 - May 1st plan to plant first 50 trees. Meet at Orchard 9-3.
 - Jen Lopardo working on design template for the Orchard website.
 - Shed at the Orchard now has a vinyl flooring, but still needs a lock box.
 - Thinking about signs to place in Town Forest directing to Orchard.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Riva would like to use the tree planting on May 5th as our Arbor Day celebration. She will coordinate with Jesse. Needs to be an annual celebration.
- Invasive Subcommittee (Dave C)
 - Dave C went out with one of the committee members doing a winter plant ID. Would like to open this up to a wider audience.
 - Held first meeting.
 - iMapInvasives app is back up and running by still is a bit wonky. Workshop planned for the spring with Chad Hammer of the Maine Natural Area Program (MNAP). Still deciding on how to organize by projects, and naming convention.
 - Dave C attended a Project Canopy grant writing training session – thought it very work intensive.
 - Dave C asked Chris to please let him know when work was going to be done in any of the parks so he can make sure only the invasives are cut.
- New Business/coming attractions (Mike)
 - Future of composting
 - New member documentation
 - Playground at Twin Brook
- Debriefing from Affordable Housing vote: Jessie brought up issue of mentioning affiliation with LCC when voicing opinion different then LCC stance.
 - John – need to maintain command structure: subcommittees report to LCC and LCC reports to Town Council and Town Council report to public.
 - Should there be a majority report and a minority report?
 - Josh – Clear reporting lines. Blurry lines between citizen and affiliations in a small town. Leary of structure when people want to speak.
 - Riva – how apply protocols – what is the process with minority?
 - Dave C – comfortable giving opinion and affiliation. In future – represent spectrum of opinions not up or down. How to elevate Commission's role so Town Council looks to us for guidance.
 - Josh – strive for consensus. Question was a yes or no – not meeting our obligation. This was a specific project – not a sweeping statement.
 - Mike – the Commission took no position on the affordable housing issue. Our job is to report to the Town Council, not the public.
 - Mike – the version of the letter that was presented to the Town Council went through nine iterations. We all had opportunities to give opinions. Silence is consensus. Should we give a majority and a minority report? Everyone needs to be involved – be active and participate to make your point known.
 - Tig – process was a big part of the issue – need to get LCC documents in advance. LCC meetings are public. The document that was dispersed outside of LCC members was not finished – still a draft.
 - Mike – need timely referral Town Council to LCC.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Mike in summary:

The First Amendment is alive and well. You are always free to express your personal opinion.

In this case, the Commission issued a report.

- The final vote was 7-1
- The report is the consensus of the Commission, not an expression of any individual's opinion or position.

It is appropriate for those who disagree with the Commission's report to provide a minority report in the name of the Commission if they choose to do so.

- As such, it is also appropriate to timely provide the minority report to all Commission members. Simple courtesy.

Basic rules of committees

If you are not there when committee work is done, it's very hard to make your case.

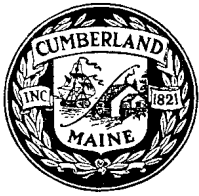
- We don't do proxies.

If you do not use the opportunities to influence the end product, it is also hard to make your case.

- Three opportunities to submit written comments.
 - - 8 people submitted comments after the January draft.
 - 1 person proposed major changes to the February X draft
 - - There was a proposal to delete a portion of the report that failed on a 4-4 vote.
 - We went through 9 drafts trying to best express what I gleaned was the consensus of the Commission before settling on the final report.
 - The recommendations were verbatim from the proposed language change.

Silence is deemed to be concurrence.

- Mind reading is not part of the job description.



TOWN LANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Commission)

- Penny – Land Trust, PML and the Sustainable Subcommittee are planning nine climate events with a local focus.

WEATHERING CLIMATE CHANGE

Understanding shifts in our local landscapes

Learn more at:
ccltmaine.org/all-events

A series of events to inform and engage community members of Chebeague Island and Cumberland around climate issues that impact us all.

March 14 / 7-8:15pm / Zoom
Sea Changes: Understanding and Preparing for Coastal Maine's Extreme Weather Events
with Bill Danielson and Hannah Baranes

March 30 / 1-2:30pm / Prince Memorial Library
Maine's Changing Bird Populations
with Derek Lovitch

April 25 / 7-8PM / Zoom
The State of Casco Bay: Climate Challenges and Solutions
with Curtis Bohlen

May 14 / 7-8:15PM / Zoom
Natural Solutions for Stabilizing Our Coastlines
with Sara Mills-Knapp and Seth Wilkinson

May 23 / 7-8:30PM / Cumberland Town Hall
The Time is Now: Local Climate Action and Opportunities for Community Involvement
with Penny Asherman, Denny Gallaudet, and Maya Shyevitch

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Chebeague Climate Action Team

- Next meeting – April 3, 7 PM