

MONMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting—February 11, 2014

The Monmouth Conservation Commission met at the Monmouth Municipal Office at 6:30pm on February 11, 2014. Present were commissioners Herb Whittier, Randy Schiller, Cindy Parker, and Bob Mulliken, and guest Fred Snow.

Fred Snow of Manchester does work for the Manchester Conservation Commission and is on the board of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC). He directed a talk with us about how CC's can be effective, and he posed a few questions for us to consider when thinking about our commission and our town.

1. What are the most important features or natural resources in Monmouth?
2. What are the most important threats to natural features?
3. Are there any local environmental issues or environmental problems?

We cited: Important features or natural resources: Monmouth's lakes and ponds (the natural water features); Cumston Hall; the rural character (woods, fields, vistas, lakes); historic buildings; Whittier Woods, Woodbury Sanctuary and other natural recreation areas.

Important threats to features/resources: development, farms struggling, lack of \$, failure to recognize natural resources, apathy, cars are always a threat to biking, need to find ways to work together with other groups and community at large, historic village character may be in danger of disappearing.

Environmental issues: carbon footprint, historic village character may be in threat, land use awareness around waterways, invasives control, etc.

Fred gave us an 8-page handout from MEACC containing info on: a.) Maine CC law, b.) what other Maine CC's are doing, c.) 101 Potential Conservation Commission Projects, d.) sections from the Town of Monmouth Comprehensive Plan, e.) what it takes for good CC's to succeed, and f.) general information about MEACC. We reviewed all of the information and discussed much, including definitions of "conservation" and "open-space plan" and what the town's comprehensive plan calls for the Monmouth CC to do. Fred stated there are about 40 CC's in Maine currently. There was much discussion. We thanked Fred for his generous time and valuable information. Fred left at 7:25pm. We continued the meeting.

Doug Beck has resigned from the Monmouth CC as president/chair and from the commission altogether. Cindy suggested sending a letter to Doug about his resigning the commission. We all agreed Doug would be and is a very valuable commissioner, with marvelous skills and leadership abilities. A letter would be a gesture of good will and respect, stating utmost respect for his decision and asking if there was something the rest of us could do to ask him to reconsider. "Is there something we can do to make it work for you?" We agreed Cindy would draft a letter to Doug and carbon copy it to the commission. Herb and Randy each said they'd be willing to chair the commission in Doug's stead.

Bob said Dan Stewart could come talk with us in April. Herb will speak with Bill Monagle for the March 11 meeting.

The next meeting of the Monmouth Conservation Commission is March 11, 2014 at the Monmouth Municipal Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Parker, Secretary