

## MONMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes**– Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The Monmouth Conservation Commission (CC) met at the Monmouth Municipal Office on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Present were Commissioners Bob Mulliken, Cindy Parker, and Herb Whittier. We had a quorum. Larry Buggia arrived at 7:15pm. Randy Schiller was unable to attend. Meeting began at 7:10pm.

Cindy read the minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup>. *Bob made a **motion** to accept the minutes as read; Herb seconded; all approved.* Larry Buggia arrived at 7:15pm.

End of fiscal year: Cindy will continue to need print cartridges and office supply things for Project Canopy. Larry mentioned frames for large town maps is a good idea, they could hang in the conference room here. Cindy gave a receipt for printer cartridges: \$45.34 dated 2/28/2015. ***Motion** by Herb to accept the receipt for reimbursement to Cindy; Larry seconded; all voted in favor, Cindy abstained.*

**Rabbit Shed property:** Larry said Lloyd McCabe has given us the survey map for the property. Cindy will keep it with the CC files. Discussion about caretaking: Which organization is official steward of the property? Herb said he would ask town manager Curt Lunt about that. The Day of Caring students, in May sometime, could be used to help clean up the grounds. Herb will contact the school about this. Monmouth Garden Club may want to help put in plants, etc., to attract birds and help stem erosion on the stream side. Bob will ask the Garden Club about this. Lloyd has three benches to donate to the property. The door to the shed may need some work.

**Leeds Superfund Site:** Larry gave us a map and information sheet from 2011 on the Leeds Metal (scrap metal recycling) site. Briefly, PCBs, metals, solvents, high concentrations of lead, and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) have been found in surface soil, waste piles, and in groundwater there. Parts of Monmouth, including Bonny Pond, Bog Brook, and private wells are within the highlighted one-mile radius of the site. The information sheet states that plans have been made by MEDEP and the EPA for: water treatment where necessary; soil removal; and a fence installation, as pedestrian and ATV access to the site is unrestricted. Larry said the DEP has been testing water along Rt. 106 in Leeds and sites have required filters. What we don't know: What has been done since 2011? And what do relevant Monmouth residents know about it?

**Monmouth Transfer Station** history from Herb: The old dump (located on the brook side of the transfer station property) was capped and clayed in 1982/83. The transfer station opened in 1983.

Cindy heard (from Code Enforcement Officer Dave Shaw) that **Monmouth has borders with 8 bodies of water** (lakes or ponds) and that is a higher number than other towns in Maine. Is this just in Central Maine, or Maine as a whole? And which lakes and ponds are we talking about?

**Community Garden:** Bob reported 11 people have paid the \$20 fee and signed the garden protocol and agreement. An agreement has also been signed between the Community Garden Committee and Ben Cloutier at Bates Mill. Ben is donating use of land in front of Bates Mill on Main Street, also water and rototilling. Plots will be 10x20 or 10x25 with 4ft-wide paths. Bob handed out copies of both agreements.

Larry reported the **Monmouth Museum** is ready to come out with the **4<sup>th</sup> book on Monmouth**. The book contains information about “the environment of Monmouth,” including articles about Woodcock Acres, Big Island on Annabessacook, Woodbury Nature Sanctuary, etc. They are looking for final donations for memorial pages or “ads” in the books. Discussion about sponsorship/donation for the book. Larry assured us that personal donations are always welcome.

**Project Canopy:** Cindy reported that an ad is going in the Community Advertiser soon, also the Town email list and the town webpage. A one-pager containing more detail is being sent to the non-profits involved (Cemetery Association, Cumston Hall Trustees, etc.). Cindy and Nancy Smith will finish a handout/postcard to be delivered door-to-door for individual home owners. Cindy asked for suggestions from Herb and Bob

about wording, as they will be the ones going door-to-door. Postage expenses for any ProjCan mailings may come out of CC budget or town budget; Cindy will double-check how it is written in ProjCan budget. Larry suggested wording such as, "Monmouth Museum, proudly working with Project Canopy to evaluate the health of our trees."

Discussion of **priorities for CC**: general name for Rabbit Shed/Coal Shed property, stewardship; indexing open space (priority for potential Planning Board and Selectmen discussion); ProjCan continues; annual report due; new trails at Whittier Woods; priorities/goals for 2015.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal building.

Meeting **adjourned** at 9:05pm.

Recorded by  
Cindy Parker, Monmouth CC Secretary