

## MONMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes– January 7, 2015

The Monmouth Conservation Commission (CC) met at the Monmouth Municipal Office on Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup>. Present were Commissioners Herb Whittier, Bob Mulliken, Larry Buggia and Cindy Parker, and Guest Lloyd McCabe. Meeting began at 7:00pm. Commissioner Randy Schiller arrived at 7:40pm.

Discussion about the **community garden project** that Bob is working on. Rev. Ann Roundy of the Monmouth Church is supportive of using the small plot of land behind the Vestry as a community garden plot. Ann lives at the parsonage next door. Kathy Perless and Norm Toombs run the Vestry operations. The Monmouth Garden Club, the Lions' Club, and Joel Blanco-Stott of the elementary school greenhouse have also shown interest. Bob asked if anyone else from the CC is interested in helping. Cindy volunteered. Bob is acting as representative of the Lions' Club as well in this project. Larry stated the Vestry/Church can take the lead on this project and the CC could facilitate.

Lloyd McCabe updated us on the **Coal Shed property**. Lloyd expects the surveyors will conclude their work in the spring and then true markers can be placed so visitors do not overstep. When the surveying is done, (this work is being done as a donation, no charge) the deed can be transferred to the town and then the sign can go up. Lloyd is planning a picnic table and a settee be built. Recommendations: placing a couple big stones on the bank down by the rabbit hutch; a dead tree on the NW boundary needs tending to; some of the hutches inside may need to be removed to make space for some winter storage, and for possible signage and maps on the inside wall; leaving some of the hutches is good for historical interest and demonstration purposes; what the rules and regulations could be; other things to check before letting visitors in. Trails along the stream is another possibility. We all agreed an announcement and photo in the advertiser showing the transfer would be good, as well. Lloyd, who is 91, said he would like to continue contributing to this project after the town takes ownership. We all heartily agreed. We gratefully thanked Lloyd for coming tonight to talk with us and for sharing his expertise.

**Project Canopy update:** Cindy said the project was officially approved by the Selectboard on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Town Manager Curtis Lunt signed it, and the application was sent off and received in time. Notice of acceptance will be given by February 1<sup>st</sup> yay or nay. Herb spoke with Laurie in the office about generating the list of properties involved. The information is available; it may be a little tricky to get it in the format we need. Randy volunteered to meet soon with Laurie (and Herb and Cindy) to help work on this. Bob volunteered to help by going door to door at the time about the project.

Herb and Randy received an email letter from the **Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC)**, dated January 2<sup>nd</sup>, highlighting what the MEACC has done over the past year and asking for a further donation to help with the costs of their programs. This donation is not mandatory, but perhaps means their rates will go up next year. Cindy said she will contact them this month to see if there are programs or resources from which we could benefit. Randy said he has contacted Marcel Pollack (sp?) for information but has not heard back yet.

Cindy has received an offer from Jean-Luc and Theresa of **Kennebec Land Trust**, for them to come speak with us about the maps KLT uses; these maps may help us with the town indexing. It was agreed to invite them to the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Cindy read the **minutes of the November 18<sup>th</sup>** meeting. *Motion by Larry to approve the minutes as read; Bob seconded. All agreed.* Cindy read the **minutes of the December 3<sup>rd</sup>** meeting. *Motion by Herb to approve the minutes as read; Larry seconded. All agreed.*

Discussion about **quorum**. *Motion by Randy that the CC recognize 60% (3/5) attendance of commissioners as constituting a quorum. Larry seconded. All voted yes.*

Discussion about **web presence** for CC and minutes. Cindy asked if the group wants to have a web presence. All agreed it is fine with them. Cindy will talk with Laurie in the office to see what works.

Randy expressed concern about the CC's focus and responsibilities. It is important to remember that the CC needs to reflect well on the town. Our mandate in the Monmouth Conservation Commission ordinance lists some duties and responsibilities specifically, including keeping an index of open areas. We've learned a lot and done a lot in our 15 month existence. We've made progress on indexing. We will undoubtedly learn a lot more through the preparation for Project Canopy. Bob mentioned Randy, Cindy and Herb have been the sole workers on the index; perhaps we can find ways to share pieces of the indexing work among us?

Reminder that the CC needs to prepare an annual report for the town by April.

Herb is leaving for Florida on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. He is scheduled to return to Maine on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Herb will give Copy 2 of the photocopied town maps to Randy. Cindy has the clean original and Copy 1. We wish Herb safe travel and lots of 70 degree days and we look forward to his return!

The **next meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal building.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.**

Recorded by Cindy Parker, Monmouth CC Secretary