

MONMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes– Tuesday, May 12, 2015

The Monmouth Conservation Commission (CC) met at the Monmouth Municipal Office on Tuesday, May 12th. Present were Commissioners Herb Whittier (treas/v.chair), Randy Schiller (chair), Cindy Parker (secr), Larry Buggia. Bob Mulliken was unable to attend. Meeting began at 7:15pm.

Cindy read the **minutes** of April 14th. *Randy made a **motion** to accept the minutes as read; Larry seconded; all approved.* Suggested changes to the March minutes will be done at the next meeting.

Finances: Herb stated our remaining budget has been carried over into the next year. Cindy presented a receipt for \$41.11 for 3 frames for maps. *Herb made a **motion** to accept and approve the receipt for reimbursement to Cindy; Larry seconded; all voted in favor, Cindy abstained.*

Cindy said a big thank you is due to Bob and Herb for going door-to-door with the **Project Canopy** postcard handouts on May 5th. It was a challenge keeping up with Bob and his long legs, Herb said with a smile. He said they spoke with maybe a tenth of the 250+ addresses, any response was positive, and they left many, many postcards. Nancy Smith told Cindy that Bob's line, "It's like a free medical check-up for your trees," was fabulous! Cindy said we do not yet have a go-ahead date from Harold and Nick for the tree inventory with the students but she will stay in touch with them.

Cindy told the group that she has stepped away from working on the **community garden project**; she still supports it as a member of the CC. She saw the garden space in front of Bates Mill being rototilled today. Herb hears that the folks at Bates Mill really want to help the town of Monmouth. Bob will have more progress to share, we're sure.

Discussion continued from last meeting on the **Leeds/Monmouth Superfund Site**, as Randy had some questions. We're unsure what (if anything) has been done since 2011, and we're unsure what the relevant residents know about it. Larry offered to follow up with this and see what he can learn.

Randy reported he and Bob went to the **Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting** on May 9th; there were many town CC's in attendance. He is very glad he went; it was very informative. For example, a woman from IFW spoke of Maine's Wildlife Action Plan (maineswildlifeactionplan@gmail.com); New England Mountain Bike Association is doing work on trail design, invasive plants; Topsham's CC has a list of criteria for conservable land; Readfield, a study of vernal pools. Lots of CC's are working on building trails. Doug Beck of North Monmouth was the day's featured speaker. Doug is now head of the **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** in Maine. RTP is a federal grant program. Larry suggested, could we invite Doug to come and ask his advice, for ex: do any of the trail projects we have in mind sound like good candidates for RTP? Randy said he will work with Bob and put together a small report about what they learned at the MEACC meeting.

Discussion continued from last meeting about stewardship of the **Rabbit Shed property** on Maple Street. Larry will email Doug Ludewig to talk with the selectboard about it; Cindy will search through CC minutes for references; Herb will ask Curt to see a copy of the deed. The wording on the warrant (town acquiring prop'y) may be helpful. Cindy said it seems obvious the CC should be the steward of the property. Larry said Lloyd McCabe would be happy knowing there is someone watching out for the property.

Cindy mentioned there are still **properties the town has tax acquired** that the CC can look at to see if it is in the town's interest to keep them or sell. This is a job the CC is tasked with. Cindy will get a current list from the town office.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal building. Meeting **adjourned** at 9:15pm.

Recorded by
Cindy Parker, Monmouth CC Secretary