

## Meeting Minutes - York Conservation Commission

**Date: January 8, 2013**

**Attending: Mike Mahlman, Ana Gray, Bob Tilley, Jeff Normandin(phone), Gregory Baker, YHS students Kyle Morrison and Olivia Drew**

- 1- Minutes from December 8 were accepted unanimously.
- 2- We welcomed new members Jeff Normandin, Gregory Baker, and Priscilla Cookson. With the recent member changes we discussed and agreed that the CC now needs to hit the 'restart' button and start fresh. We agreed that a positive, collaborative approach to all our work will be important to our success.
- 3- We discussed and reviewed the role of the CC in York. We discussed the Maine and Town statutes that define the role of CC's. Included in our role are inventory of open areas and defining sensitive areas for protection and proper use. There are a number of town CC responsibilities that will need to be researched and confirmed (water testing, conservation easements; York River, Wheeler Refuge & Harris island management). Private property must also be monitored for illegal practices. We will review and update our mission statement before we post it on the Town Website.
- 4- We confirmed our areas of focus for calendar 2013. We began discussion on the specifics and work required in each area. We agreed that each member should select one or at most two areas to focus their time on.
  - a. Establish an effective, positive working relationship all appropriate community organizations. Mike and Greg will begin in this area with the Planning Board and the development application process. Initial meetings with Steve Burns and Todd Frederick have been conducted. All organizations will be covered in this effort but we will need to prioritize and schedule in a thoughtful manner. We do not want to create expectations before we are able to follow through on them. We will be asking members of the other groups to join us at the beginning of future CC meetings to educate our team on their efforts.
  - b. Create a 'conservation database' which will identify all York lands by identified variables. We are lucky to have Jeff N on our team for this effort. He has the technical skills and recent experience developing a similar map database for South Berwick. Mike plans to work with Jeff on this focus area.
  - c. Community education initiatives- There are so many opportunities in this area that it will be a challenge to avoid taking on more than we will have time to be successful with. Greg, Priscilla, Ana, and Bob will focus in area. We will work with but not duplicate the work of our sub-committee L2L. Initiatives on animal habitat and school involvement will be considered.

- 5- We reviewed the project plans for both the Pine Ledge and Paolini Subdivision applications. Ana and Mike reported their observations from the 12/13 Planning Board Meeting. Greg will attend the 1/10 PB meeting and will report back to the team his observations. We will then begin to draft our recommendations and concerns to the PB.
  
- 6- Our next scheduled meeting 1/22/13. We will continue to meet twice per month in the coming months.