

WINTHROP CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notes for meeting of December 11, 2023

Present: Amy Hughes, David Cook, Jeff Toothaker, Corinne Michaud LeBlanc, Jill Ippoliti

Absent: Wini Turner

1. Composition of Winthrop Conservation Commission: The ordinance creating the Winthrop Conservation Commission states that the WCC consists of 5 members appointed by the Town Council. The Town's website lists 4 regular members and 2 associate members. This inconsistency was brought to our attention when Corinne submitted her application after Tyler Kidder moved from Winthrop and was no longer able to serve. Deb Nichols, an Executive Assistant in the Town Clerk's Office, correctly advised that with Tyler's resignation, we were at the requisite membership of 5.

State statute provides for conservation commissions to consist of no fewer than 3 nor more than 7 members (30-A section 3261 subsection 1.) State law allows additional non-voting members to be appointed. The Town ordinance does not mention appointment of non-voting associate members.

After discussion, the consensus recommendation of the WCC is that the Town website be revised to indicate 5 voting members with current membership as follows:

Amy Hughes, Chair

Jeff Toothaker, Vice-Chair

Jill Ippoliti, Secretary

David Cook

Wini Turner

Wini's term expires January 31, 2024. Upon expiration of her term, we recommend that Corinne Michaud Leblanc's application be acted upon. The Town website should indicate that Dave Cook's term expires December 31, 2024. *Amy will advise the Town Clerk's Office of our recommendation.*

2. Request from Winthrop Area Rotary for a presentation: A member of the Winthrop Area has asked the WCC to give a presentation to the Rotary. After discussion, the consensus was that a presentation on the Economic Benefits of Open Space Protection would be of interest to this audience. The presentation would be based on a PowerPoint presented to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions in 2021. No date is set. The Rotary meets weekly on Tuesday at 0730 AM at the American Legion Post. *Jill will let one of the Rotary members know that we are willing to present in the spring.*

3. Maine Community Resilience Partnership: The Community Resiliency Partnership assists communities in becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change. This grant program is administered by the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. Other towns have received grants to fund development of Open Space Plans. We understand that Winthrop is in the process of enrolling in the partnership which is requisite to applying for grants. Open Space Planning was a priority of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and expected to be a priority in the current update to the plan. *Jill will contact Dawn Emerson, Winthrop's Town Planner, to see how far along we are in the enrollment process.*

4. Update of Comprehensive Plan: *Amy will contact Ted Hatch, Pat Savory and Jessica Cobb for an update on the status of the Comprehensive Plan update.*

5. Next meeting: We discussed meeting every other month during the winter. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 8th. This may be postponed until February if the results of inquiries regarding the Comprehensive Plan update and the Community Resilience Partnership can be communicated via email.

Jill Ippoliti
Secretary
12/13/23