

## Topsham Conservation Commission (TCC)

Minutes approved 8/10/21

July 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Remote Meeting on Zoom

In attendance: Audie Arbo, Shana Stewart Deeds, Angus Dillon (Bowdoin Intern), Victor Langelo, Rod Melanson, Steve Pelletier, Raija Suomela

I. Approval of June 8, 2021 meeting minutes.

Minutes approved unanimously by TCC members.

II. Natural Areas Plan update.

A. [Story Map Draft of Growth in Topsham](#) - Angus Dillon shared the Topsham growth Storymap he made. **Action items: Angus will make a pdf for TCC. Then TCC can add to the Facebook page.**

1. This Story Map was forwarded to Judy Colby-George by Rod

B. Data needed to determine the NAP story.

TCC discussed the Natural Areas Plan update (NAP). The following were considered:

1. Do we need building points outside growth and NAP focus areas?

2. Would subdivisions and lots be a better gauge of growth trends?

a) Subdivisions are recorded and searchable when they are sold, not necessarily when they are divided, so harder to gather list of them

3. Are we missing focus areas?

a) TCC will update focus areas with community input and further conversation in the future

b) Could expand them, or get more micro, depends on community input

c) Community interest in further protections and regulations will be determined by community input

d) Next steps.

The NAP update is an ongoing discussion.

III. Bowdoin Common Good project?

A. Loop trail preparations. Head of Tide (HoT) park

B. Invasive plant removal. Barberry also at HoT park

Bowdoin is starting the application process for common good projects. They are due in about a month. **Action Item: Victor will work on Bowdoin Common Good Project volunteer application.**

#### IV. Updates

A. TSWF forest review with interns. - Steve completed this walk. **Action Item: Steve will have a Forest Addendum for our review at the next meeting.**

B. Residential pesticide/herbicide usage.

A neighbor approached Victor and Shana about pesticides being sprayed by their neighbor. TCC members will add info to the Facebook page about pesticides and yardscaping. **Action item: Add info to Facebook page about pesticides in Maine. Victor will pass along the info/links to the concerned neighbor as well.**

How to make a complaint: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/index.shtml>  
<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/public/complaints.shtml>

Yardscaping for a healthy maine (mostly by Gary Fish) -

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/index.htm>

**For discussion at a future meeting:** TCC is interested in setting up a green lawns garden tour, and revisit native plant sales/info - keep in mind for next year activities.

C. Someone in town is looking into an open space subdivision.

Rod updated the TCC about a resident considering an open space subdivision.

#### V. Agenda items for next/future meetings.

##### 1. Account balances

**Action item: Rod will send the update of funds/account balances.**

a. What projects can these funds be used for?

b. Victor will formalize policy for utilizing funds for Mallett Woods and share

c. TCC should give updates to the Selectboard soon, and then again to talk budgets in 2021 regarding the NAP update (scope and budgets).

##### 2. Work on funding policies.

a. Review draft procedure for Open Space ILF account to get ready for Selectboard submittal.

##### 4. Review draft of revisions to forest management plan for the TSWF.

##### 5. Work on path forward for Natural Areas Plan.

Meeting notes taken by Audie Arbo. Minutes submitted for review by Secretary, Shana Stewart Deeds.