

**Casco Open Space Commission  
Minutes  
January 19, 2015**

**Present:** Eric Dibner, Frank Kantor, Grant Plummer

**Absent:** Keith Morehouse, Barbara York

**Public:** Nadia Hermos

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes from December 15, 2014 was tabled.

Annual Report – The Commission identified items to include in its Report: COSC led a walk on the 70-Acre Wood with local neighbors and voted to obtain a current survey of the property. COSC reviewed focus areas in the Open Space Plan and their values for the Town and opportunities and challenges for their protection. COSC met with property owners in Pine Hill/Owl Pond area to determine their future interests and plans for their area and its management. There was interest in protecting the watershed, the Pond and the forest; at present, public use of the area is not restricted. COSC representatives attended Maine Land Trust Network conference and the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting.

Work Plan, 2015 – COSC remains interested in contacting Georgette Burgess about the Pine Hill/Owl Pond area. Plummer will contact Town Office to see if there is an address to send a letter from COSC or York.

70-Acre Wood – The Town needs to determine if there is access (right-of-way) from Ring Landing Road across adjacent properties, and also what is the status of the r-o-w to Sebago Lake. In terms of management, options include leaving the lot as-is, managing the trails, using it as a community forest.

The two Town parcels serve as filters for Sebago Lake. Should the Town partner with Portland Water District, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, other organizations? Would PWD buy an easement so funds could go to improve watershed protection? Minimum action steps could include clean up, repair water crossings, and create safe trails. Would Department of Environmental Protection cover nonpoint source pollution control on State Park Road? What about use of the Tenney Hill mitigation

fund? COSC might want to set up a lands management group. It would be good to invite Jim Seymour Town Planner to assist us.

Grant will contact Paul Hunt at PWD about the lands we have and how to plan for them.

Communication to landowners – COSC will plan a mailing to landowners about goals of the Commission. First, we should review what SWOAM, LELT, MEACC and others have for handouts about how landowners can preserve their land for the future. Then, design a brochure so people see the Commission as an asset working in their interest.

Future topic – How zoning works with open space: How do the setbacks in recently passed ordinances cover wet areas? What updates are needed?

The meeting adjourned at 8:05