

## **Minutes**

### **Conservation Action Planning Work Group**

Friday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

10:30-11:45 am-- Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor New Building

In attendance: Jane E. Disney, George Kidder, call-in: Barbara Arter, Wendy Norden

#### **I. Update on November 10<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder meeting, review of participant list**

Participants may need a reminder: Why are we holding this 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting, what did we learn from the last meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010?

- [Outcome of last meeting: Brief overviews of the state of upper Frenchman Bay by variety of speakers revealed some issues, including water quality declines around Northeast Creek and Blunts Point, harvesting pressure on clam flats in Bar Harbor resulting in quick depletion even after two years of conservation closure, and threats to eelgrass habitat. Group consensus work identified priority areas for eelgrass restoration including Hadley Point and Thomas Island, Thomas Bay, and Berry Cove. Suggested actions in these areas were prioritized. Priorities included continued water quality monitoring, continued eelgrass restoration, identification of users and potential conflicts, and addressing public access to the water. Geoff Smith of The Nature Conservancy made a presentation on Conservation Action Planning as a way to address issues and conflicts. In evaluation of the 3-30-2010 stakeholder meeting, 23 of 25 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the presentations on Conservation Action Planning provided a helpful framework for working together in upper Frenchman Bay. Nine meeting participants agreed to work on a Conservation Action Planning committee. Four of these individuals have met twice since March. They discussed bay planning processes including Conservation Action Planning and agreed there was need to broaden input into bay planning for upper Frenchman Bay. JED]

#### **II. Brainstorm additional contacts**

Jane updated the group on progress with contacting additional stakeholders. In addition to the group that attended the 3-30-2010 meeting, and the individuals who will be presenting their experience with Conservation Action Planning (Tin Smith, Wells, NERR, Mark Ward, consultant, Rory Saunders, NOAA, and Tom Henderson, Greater Lovell Land Trust), Jane contacted Tom Sidar, executive director of Frenchman Bay Conservancy, and has sent out invitations to town offices in Trenton, Lamoine, and Hancock. She asked Julee Swanson, a Lamoine selectman who attended the last meeting, to invite others from Trenton (John Bennet from Trenton has since registered). She has asked Lee Hudson for more contacts with fishermen. She has talked with the planning director in Bar Harbor who has indicated that Bar Harbor planning board members may be interested in attending the meeting. Jane suggested the invitation be extended to

Conservation Commission members. It was suggested that Jane use the same approach with planning departments in other towns. In addition, DMR personnel should receive phone calls to encourage participation and DEP, IF&W, and NOAA reps should be included and Army Corps of Engineers as well. Jane suggested Shawn Mahaney who has issued permits for eelgrass restoration in the past.

To date, only 5 people have registered for the November meeting, Barbara suggested a follow-up e-mail reviewing the outcomes of the last stakeholder meeting and re-iterating the intent of this meeting.

**III. Discuss the details of a survey. Do we want to develop something prior to 11/10/2010 that we can send out to all invited participants? Or wait for the outcome of the stakeholder meeting? Can we get started on a survey without knowing the outcome of the meeting?**

It was suggested that we do both a phone survey of people as they register and also put together an on-line "Survey Monkey" survey to send out to all invited participants to get feedback before the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The question is: Do people see a need for planning in upper Frenchman Bay? If so, The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Action Planning model may have tools that work well for the group but other approaches can be discussed. If not, why not? What do people see as solutions for securing a sustainable future for Frenchman Bay?

**IV. We will know by the end of the morning on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 whether we are moving forward with Conservation Action Planning. We need to be prepared if the outcome is "yes" and if the outcome is "no".**

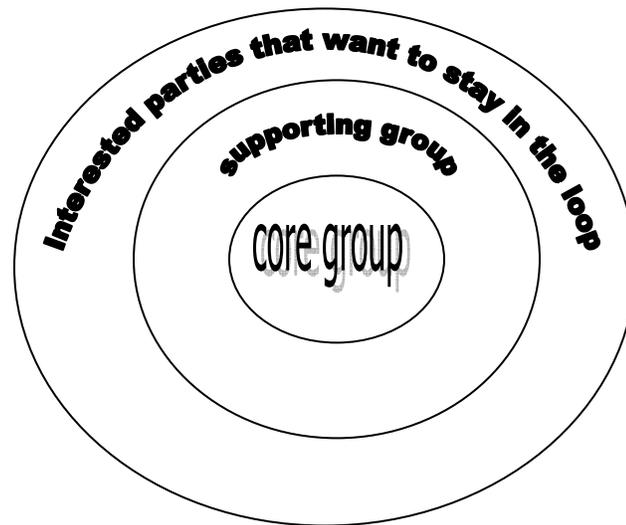
**If the answer is "no", are there alternative avenues (to CAP) for protecting species, habitat, way-of-life in Frenchman Bay? Should we have some ideas on the table in the event that we have an afternoon "brainstorming session"?**

**If the answer is "yes", should this CAP working group help to run the afternoon "next steps to CAP" session? What might this session look like? Is it too early to start talking about scope, etc.?**

The group discussed the fact that people who attend this meeting are probably interested in planning. But we will find out more in surveys before the meeting. Barbara is a consultant who has done a lot of different kinds of planning, including bay planning, and can introduce to the group in the afternoon some different concepts with which to move forward. The TNC Conservation Action Planning process has many well established tools that may work very well for the group. Assuming the group understands that some sort of planning is necessary to preserve, protect, and/or restore resources, the afternoon session might get us to consensus on the scope of our project (upper Bay, whole Bay), a

list of groups/types of people/organizations/agencies/ or institutions that should be represented on the planning committee and steps to move forward.

The group briefly discussed what a planning group would look like. A “tiered approach” was suggested. With good representation in a core group, other planning group participants could play supporting roles, for example, as reviewers of drafts etc. It was suggested that the core group has particular slots to ensure representation.



If people have responded that they are not interested in bay planning, either in pre-stakeholder meeting surveys, or at the Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting, then we need to ask the question “why” and try to resolve the hold-ups.

Inviting at least one speaker who was involved in a different planning model to the meeting might be helpful. Wendy suggested that Jane talk with Jen Atkinson of QLF who was involved in the Muscongus Bay Plan. The other speakers we have planned have been involved in Conservation Action Planning using the TNC model, but they have also not had to deal with planning issues unique to bays. Land is owned by individuals. The ocean belongs to all of the people of Maine.