

Maine Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) Committee
Town of Cumberland, Town Manager William Shane, P.E.
December 1, 2017
Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee regarding land conservation efforts in the Town of Cumberland. I'm Bill Shane, the town manager for Cumberland.

The Town of Cumberland and the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust have been working together for decades to protect natural resources and recreational opportunities in the Town of Cumberland. Our active partnership has proven to be very successful for our community. We would never have accomplished as much working independently. CCLT is an all-volunteer land trust and we appreciate every opportunity to work with them for the benefit of our community.

Cumberland is one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Maine. We are located 10 minutes north of the City of Portland and the development pressure is significant. In FY 2016/17 alone, we had 52 new single-family housing units and 96 new apartments. The demand for housing is increasing and the population is growing. While growth is important and essential to our community, we also recognize the need to protect our key natural resources and recreational opportunities while we can. There is no time to waste. The benefit of these conservation efforts will be the increase in the quality of life for our citizens, desirability of our community for residents and businesses, increased property values and protection of important natural resources.

The partnership between the Town and the Land Trust is critical in order to achieve our common vision of protecting important habitat for wildlife; protecting water quality of our streams, aquifer and Casco Bay; providing high quality recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens; and protecting our scenic open fields and agricultural heritage. None of the land in Cumberland is protected by the State, so the responsibility falls upon the municipality and CCLT to accomplish this shared goal.

We have worked together to protect three key resources in Town – the 216-acre Rines Forest, 23-acre Broad Cove Reserve and most recently the 213-acre Knight's Pond Preserve. In each of these cases, the town owns the land and the land trust holds a conservation easement. The trifecta of a having a stream-laced community forest, ocean-front park and a great pond protected in our small town is truly amazing. All of these projects are the result of CCLT and the Town contributing to the acquisition and ongoing management of the land.

As an example, at Knight's Pond, the town originally turned down the opportunity to purchase the land on its own, but the Land Trust was able to pull partners together for a campaign and help raise the funds to purchase the land. This property had been on our wish list for decades. The full community was behind our efforts. We had more letters of support for our LMF

application than any other applicant - churches, science teachers, bait fishermen, hunters, youth groups, hockey players, real estate agents, local business and more all came together for this project. We had over 200 donors to the campaign and over 150 people came to celebrate the day of acquisition.

Since acquiring Knight's Pond, the town and the land trust have developed a management plan for the property, significantly improved the trail network, written and received grants to pay for signage and picnic tables, and hosted many popular educational and recreational events. Land Trust volunteers work hand in hand with town staff to maintain the property and its trail system for the enjoyment of all. In fact, during the recent storm, land trust volunteers were out on the property the next day clearing downed trees and debris, while the town staff managed a large tree down at the trailhead. Usage of the property is increasing and appreciated by all. This truly is a great collaborative effort on a great property.

CCLT owns in fee four properties in the Town of Cumberland totaling only 65 acres – Basket Island in Casco Bay, Frog Pond & Salamander Swamp, Rock Ridge and Carley-Grant woodlands. All of these properties are tax exempt. Two of these properties are significant habitats recognized by the State of Maine and therefore, better managed by the land trust alone. Basket Island is visited by thousands of kayakers every summer and a site for nesting seabirds. At Frog Pond & Salamander Swamp, CCLT organizes over 100 volunteers (including our local policemen and local school children) every spring to help migrating frogs and salamanders safely cross Range Road to mate in the vernal pool. All of these properties owned by CCLT are open to the public and provide important natural resource protection. The Town also sees the value in providing property tax exemption to the land trust for lands it owns in fee.

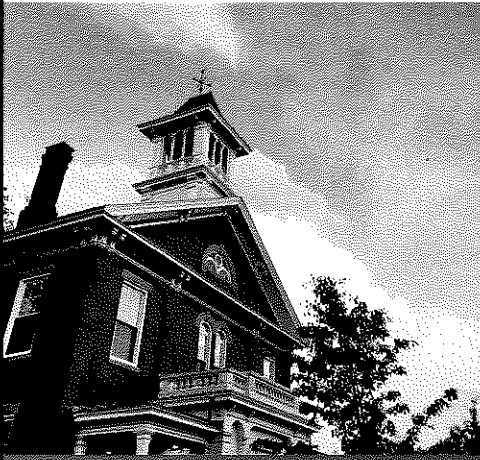
Besides the three properties mentioned above with town ownership, all of CCLT's other properties are privately owned with conservation easements and still on the tax roles. These easement properties include: working hayfields and forests, an environmental education center for Breakwater School, woodlands buffering Mill Brook and Knight's Pond, as well as island properties in Casco Bay enjoyed by boaters and kayakers. We support individual landowners taking the initiative to protect their land with conservation easements held by CCLT. It is a win-win for all.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with CCLT to improve the Town of Cumberland. There is more work to do to build upon and connect the key large parcels we have already protected. The Town appreciates the support and efforts of our colleagues at CCLT to educate our citizens about the natural resources in our community, help them connect with nature and provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Cumberland is a better community because of our partnership.

Welcome to

Cumberland

A new residents guide to life in Cumberland!

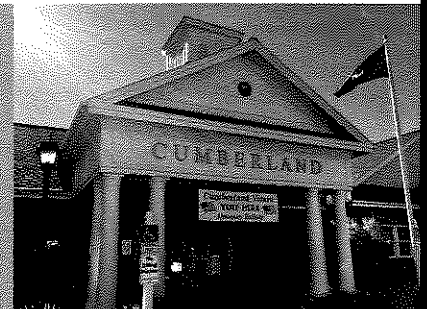


Town Hall is located at 290 Tuttle Road and the phone number is 829-5559. Office Hours are as follows:

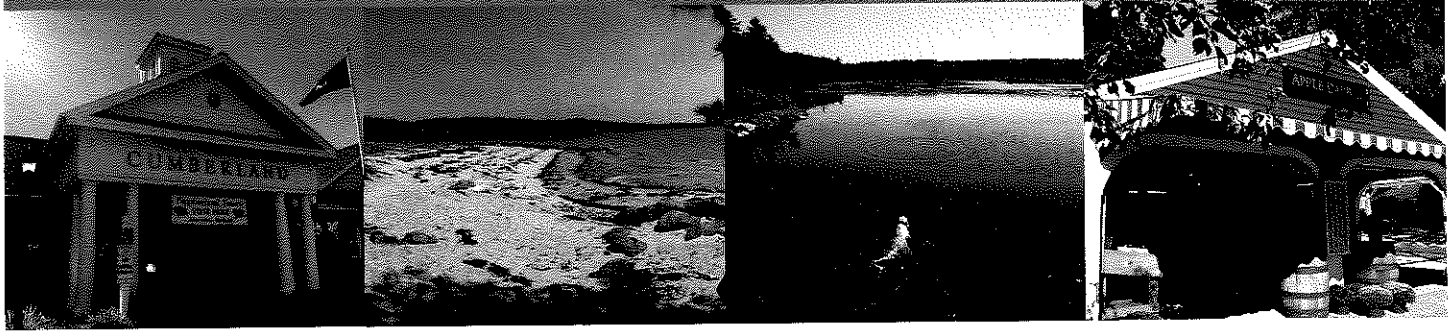
Monday-Wednesday: 8am-5pm

Thursdays: 8am-6pm.

Fridays: CLOSED



About Cumberland



Welcome to the Town of Cumberland! Cumberland continues to be one of the best towns in the state of Maine. It has been recognized as one of the most desirable places to live and raise a family as well as being nationally ranked as one of the safest and smartest communities.

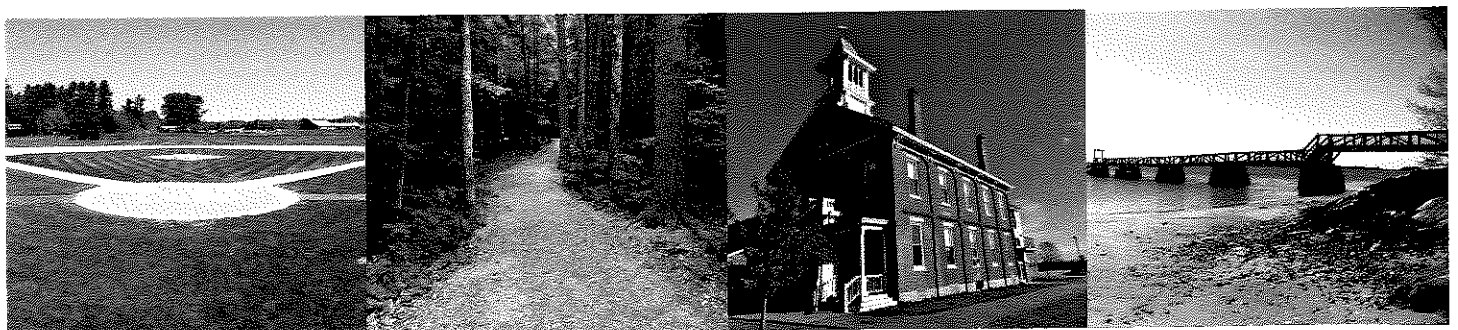
The Town was incorporated on March 19, 1821, which came after a successful secession effort by the residents of the northwestern section of the town of North Yarmouth. The Town was officially named by Ephraim Sturdivant, a ship Captain and the Town's First Treasurer. Today, Cumberland is home to approximately 7,900 residents, with the majority living here year round.

Cumberland has a rich farming history, with Sweetser's Apple Barrel & Orchards and Spring Brook Farms, among some of the original agriculture operations that still remain a vital part of our community. Since 1868, the town's local farmers club has put on The Cumberland Fair at the end of September, which is one of the state's largest agricultural fairs.

Cumberland prides itself on being community-oriented. Every year the town comes out on Memorial Day to hold a parade through the center of town to honor those who have served for our country. It has many outdoor recreational facilities, which are included in this handout. In the summertime, residents are able to enjoy an outdoor concert series from local musicians on the front lawn of Greely High School, walk/run/bike on town trails, swim/explore/paddle around the coast line at Broad Cove Reserve, or play tennis/golf at Val Halla Recreation Center. In the winter residents can snowshoe, cross country ski, or skate at the town's various recreational facilities.

Cumberland is also home of the MSAD #51 school district that provides education to students K-12. The school district is comprised of Cumberland & North Yarmouth residents and has three schools: Mabel I. Wilson Elementary School, Greely Middle School, and Greely High School. The school system is consistently ranked as one of the best in the state of Maine.

In Cumberland, our goal is to provide the highest level of services to enhance the quality of life and to create a prideful community. We created this handout with new residents needs in mind to help you with your transition into town!



Stay Connected!

There are a few easy ways to stay connected to what is going on in the community:

#1: Check out the Town's Website: <http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/>

#2: Subscribe for the Town's Weekly Newsletter, The Cumberland Crier, that is sent out via email. Go to <http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/community-news/pages/cumberland-crier> to sign up for this service!

#3: Follow the Town's Facebook and/or Twitter page for instantaneous updates to your feed:



Town of Cumberland

<https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandME/>



@CumberlandMaine

<https://twitter.com/CumberlandMaine>

Waste & Recycling Information

Cumberland provides weekly, curbside collection of household solid waste and recyclables. The Town also provides curbside collection of large household items twice annually (spring and fall) as well as providing additional waste collection and special events throughout the year. Cumberland uses the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) waste collection system. All residential trash must be put curbside on their collection day by 7am in a green, Town of Cumberland PAYT bag. Recycling is collected on the same day and time as the solid waste. You may put your recycling out in a bin of your choice, but not in a generic trash bag as it will be assumed it is trash and as such would not be collected.

The Town Hall sells recycling bins and special trash bags:

- Recycling Bin—\$10
- 33 gallon bags —\$25 for 10 bags
- 20 gallon bags —\$12.50 for 10 bags



The special trash bags can be purchased at local retailers including, but not limited to: *Hannaford West Falmouth, Falmouth Shaw's, Yarmouth Hannaford, Town Landing Market, and Food Stop.*

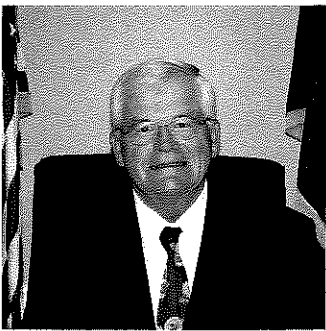
The Town also has a Brush Dump where residents can drop off brush, leaves, grass clippings, and Christmas Trees. The facility can be accessed by residents by purchasing a season, day, or single-use pass.

For more information about these services, please visit the "Waste & Recycling" page on the Town of Cumberland Website: <http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/waste-and-recycling>

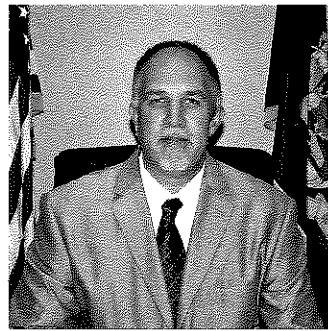
Town Council



Cumberland is governed by a seven-member, elected Town Council who meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month to conduct town business. The Council delegates responsibility in carrying out its mission to the Town Manager and his staff. Additionally, committees comprised of volunteer residents are tasked with research and oversight of specific town resources and activities. For more information about the Town Council such as meeting agendas, minutes, or contact information, please visit the website at <http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/town-council>.



Peter Bingham



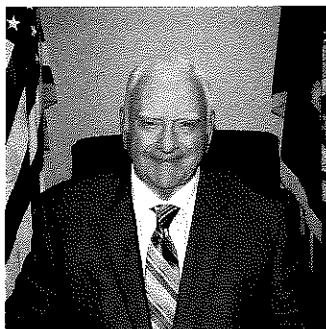
Ronald Copp



Michael Edes



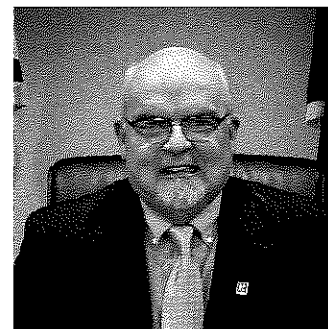
Thomas Gruber



William Stiles



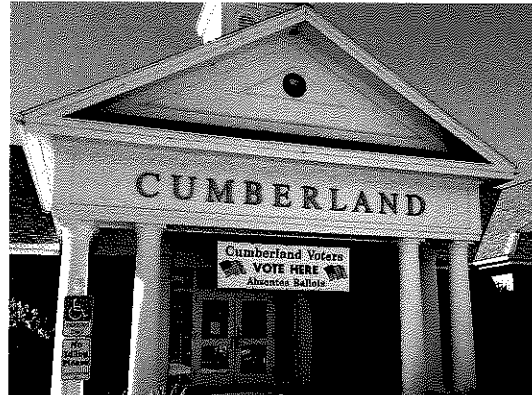
Shirley Storey-King



George Turner

Voter Registration & Election Information

All State & Local Elections are held at Town Hall in the Council Chambers.



If you are not registered to vote in the Town of Cumberland, you can come into the Town Hall to do so Monday-Wednesday 8am-5pm and Thursday's 8am-6pm. To register, you will need a photo ID (*license, passport, or Maine State ID*) and proof of residency if your Cumberland address is not listed on your form of ID. Examples of proof of residency, include but are not limited to, *a tax bill, vehicle registration, hunting/fishing license, utility bill, etc.*

Car Registrations

Individuals moving to Cumberland ***from within the state***, must come to the Town Clerk's Office, within 10 days, to have an address change completed on their vehicle registration (no charge).

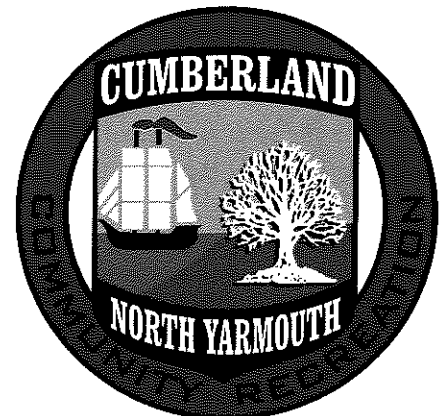
Individuals moving to Cumberland ***from out of state***, must, within 30 days of residency in Cumberland, register their vehicles at the Town Clerk's Office. You will need to bring:

- the previous out of state registration
- the title to the vehicle if it is a 1995 or newer model
- proof of insurance coverage as required by the State of Maine

Recreation Programs

Cumberland/North Yarmouth Community Recreation Department is committed to offering the residents a wide variety of high quality programs, events and activities that will positively affect our vision of creating community. To view their brochure or register for programs, please visit their website at:

<http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/recreation>



Public Parks

Cumberland has a variety of public trails and parks in the community including: Broad Cove Reserve, Knight's Pond Preserve, Rines Forest, Town Forest, Twin Brook, Val Halla, and West Cumberland Athletic Complex. For maps, directions to the facilities, and allowed/prohibited uses, please visit the Town of Cumberland website at: <http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/Parks>



Broad Cove Reserve is a 22 acre property, that's tucked off of Route 88 with nearly 11 acres along the shoreline. Residents are encouraged to walk, hike, observe nature, swim, kayak, paddle board, boat, fish, shell fish, picnic, bike, cross-country ski, snowshoe, or participate in educational activities. Dogs are not allowed on the property beyond the yellow gate. *(Entrance to Broad Cove is located near 179 Foreside Road)*

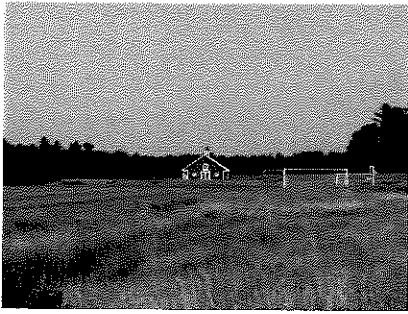
Knight's Pond Preserve is a 212 acre property containing 46 acre great pond, forested uplands, a ridgeline with views of Casco Bay, a network of connecting trails, unique natural community types, and critical wildlife habitat. *(entrance to Knight's Pond is located near 475 Greely Road)*. You can enjoy walking, running, biking, hiking, horseback riding, dog walking, picnicking, fishing, etc. During the winter months, residents like to go cross-country skiing and snowshoeing through the trails as well as ice skating and playing pond hockey. *(entrance to Knight's Pond Preserve is located near 475 Greely Road Ext.)*



Rines Forest is a 209 acre property that grows large hemlock and pine trees as well as a sprinkling of red oak, birch, poplar and maple. It is a perfect canopy for the forest's diverse wildlife which includes white tail deer, coyote, fox, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and numerous wild birds. Along its boundaries, flows Mill Brook which winds its way through the forest providing visitors with beautiful waterfalls and places of solitude. *(entrance located near 360 Range Road)*

The **Town Forest** is located in the heart of Cumberland Center. The trail is comprised of 2 loops: the original loop which now has an entrance by the Village Green, and the Bailey Ballfields off of Drowne Road; and the newer loop that branches off from the original trail and cuts through the center of the forest. The trails are easily accessible to young and old alike! The trails also is home to the Town Forest Story Walk; a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile loop that provides a new outdoor adventure for residents to read a story as they walk the path and take in the scenery. The storybook pages are posted at several stations that are staggered along the trail. The story will be changed the 1st Saturday of every month so visitors are invited to return each month for a different story. *(Located behind Town Hall at 290 Tuttle Road)*





The **Twin Brook Recreation Facility** is a four season park that has grown in use and amenities over the years and now covers over 250 acres. There are over 22 acres of mixed athletic fields, baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, disc golf course, restroom facilities and more than 4 miles of wooded walking trails. In the winter months, many trails are groomed for cross country skiing. Twin Brook is in use from sun up to sun down by a wide age range of people doing anything from walking their dogs, flying kites, playing soccer to eating their lunch. Twin Brook hosts multiple local and regional events and activities. *(Located at 175 Tuttle Road)*

West Cumberland Recreation Complex is a vital resource to the town as well as to the residents in the neighborhood. It is comprised of a Little League Field, a football field, a practice field, a playground and a recreation hall. The fields are in use from early spring with Little League games to late fall with recreational football. The recreation hall stays booked year round with programs for the Recreation Department as well as with events booked by the community. Booking is available through the Recreation Department at 829-2208. *(Located at 115 Blackstrap Road)*



Val Halla is a municipal facility owned and operated by the Town of Cumberland, that offers an 18-hole golf , outdoor and indoor driving range, two putting greens, and four asphalt lighted tennis courts. Val Halla is a great four season facility as well. Sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog walking, light snowmobiling, and indoor golf are a few of the many off-season activities! *(Located at 60 Val Halla Road)*

Community News

Cumberland prides itself on being very community-oriented. There are many different events, programs, services, and volunteer opportunities for new residents to become involved with. Some of the Annual Events Held in Cumberland are:

- Memorial Day Parade (Memorial Day Morning)*
- Cumberland Fair (always the last week in September)*
- Christmas Tree Lighting in the center of town*
- Farmer's Market (every Saturday morning from May-October)*

More information about events coming up in Cumberland, please visit the Community News section on the Town Website at

<http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/community-news>

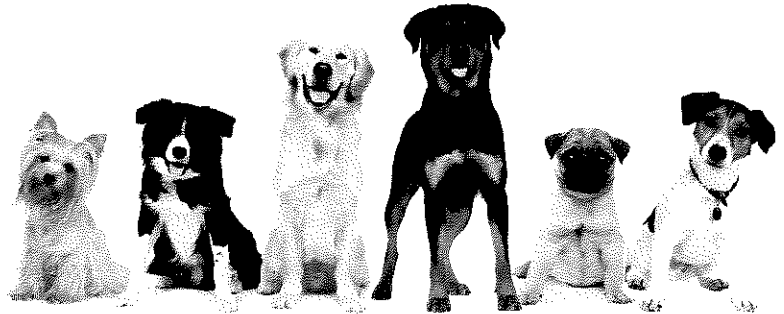


Dog Licenses

All dogs 6 months and older must have a license. If you become the owner of a dog 6 months or older, the dog must be licensed by January of each year. In order to obtain a license for your dog, the owner must present a current State of Maine Rabies Certificate obtained from a veterinarian. This certificate will verify that your dog has received its rabies shot within the past two years. All dog licenses expire December 31st, of each year so don't delay in registering/renewing your dog's license! You can go online to complete the registration at: https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl or stop by Town Hall and register your dog in person. If you have any questions regarding dog registrations, please contact the Clerk's Office at 829-5559.

Dog Licensing Fees:

- \$6 per year for spayed/neutered dogs
- \$11 per year for dogs not spayed/neutered.



Per state law, any dog license that is relicensed after January 31 will be subject to a \$25 late fee.

Aging in Place Programs

Aging in Place Cumberland, underwritten by the town, has a wide range of programs in place to help people stay in their homes as long as possible as they age.

A rides program provides free transportation to Cumberland residents 60 and older. Seniors can choose from a myriad of activities—morning gatherings with friends, music presentations, game nights at the library, lectures, author talks, and many other topics of interest. Classes on balance, self-help instruction for those with chronic health conditions, Medicare assistance, and other courses are available. AIP volunteers offer regular visits to homebound and isolated senior residents. Students at Greely and adult volunteers can help with yard work, shoveling, minor handyman repairs, and pet care during an emergency.



Stop by the Aging in Place kiosk in Cumberland Town Hall, visit the Aging in Place website at www.AIPCumberland.org, call 207-829-2205, or email AIP@cumberlandmaine.com for more information.

Cumberland Town Hall, 290 Tuttle Road (829-5559)

Office Hours: **Monday-Wednesday:** 8am-5pm, **Thursdays:** 8am-6pm, and **CLOSED** on Fridays.