

Town of Brunswick, Maine
Mare Brook Watershed Steering Committee

Background. At its February 7, 2022 regular meeting, the Town Council voted to adopt the final draft of the Mare Brook Watershed Management Plan. The plan identifies a multitude of stressors that contribute to Mare Brook's Urban Impaired Stream status including, but not limited to, stormwater runoff from developed land, altered riparian zones, loss of floodplains, temperature increase, altered channels, loss of wetlands, road salt, nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen) loading, and improperly placed and sized culverts. Additionally, the plan includes a robust implementation program featuring objectives and action items to be completed by the Town in conjunction with a variety of organizations and stakeholders and broken down into three phases of work, the first of which spans years 2022-2026.

Committee Members. The Committee shall be comprised of one (1) voting member appointed by each of the following entities, for a total of nine (9) members.

- Brunswick Town Council;
- Brunswick Planning Board;
- Brunswick Conservation Commission;
- Brunswick Marine Resources Committee;
- Bowdoin College;
- Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA);
- Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE);
- Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT);
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

The expectation is that each member of the Committee shall represent the views of the Committee that selected the member to serve. Each member shall periodically report to, and obtain feedback and input from, the entity that appointed the Committee member.

The Committee shall select a chair and vice chair who shall conduct Committee meetings and be the primary contact for staff.

Although committee membership is limited to the nine (9) members listed above, the Committee shall proactively engage with the groups, communities, and professionals it deems necessary in order to seek the broadest representation of views to assist the committee in meeting its responsibilities. The following entities are identified as resources: Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Maine Department of Marine Resources; Maine Department of Transportation, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership; and Friends of Casco Bay.

Committee's Scope of Work.

The Committee is tasked with assisting staff with the implementation of the recommendations of the Mare Brook Watershed Plan. The Plan shall be implemented in phases and the Committee's initial scope shall be limited to Phase 1 of the Plan, which called for the procurements of a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study as well as the small-scale culvert improvements identified.

Committee Meetings. At its initial meeting, the Committee shall determine its regular meeting dates. It is expected that the Committee shall meet quarterly. Meeting shall be publicly noticed by the posting of agendas and related materials on the Town's website. It is the Town Council's intent that Committee meetings be scheduled so that they can be televised on one of the Town's two cable tv channels and recorded for on-demand streaming from the Town's website.

Reporting. The Committee shall report on its activities to the Town Council, at least quarterly. The reports shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements for inclusion in Town Council meeting agenda packets.

Committee Staff. The Town Manager shall select the staff that will provide administrative and technical support for the Committee. At a minimum, the staff shall include the Environmental Planner and the Town Engineer. Staff shall also be responsible for preparing agendas and minutes, posting public hearings, handling correspondence, and maintaining all official records.

Funding. The Committee shall assist staff in seeking funding for Phase I from available grant resources, including EPA Section 319 Clean Water Act grant funding.

Proposed to Town Council: March 21, 2022

Adopted by Town Council: March 21, 2022