



Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Fwd: Greenbelt Trails Report

4 messages

Robert Malley <robert.malley@capeelizabeth.org>
 To: Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 1:56 PM

Maureen,

This is hot off the press and I am just starting to review it. I wanted to forward it along so you could take a peek at it and decide if you would like to share it with the commission tonight, or ask for some editing.

Bob

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brendan Sweeney** <bsweeney3504@yahoo.com>
 Date: Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 1:50 PM
 Subject: Greenbelt Trails Report
 To: "Robert.Malley@capeelizabeth.org" <Robert.Malley@capeelizabeth.org>

Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt Mid season report

The 2013 Cape Elizabeth Green Belt Trail maintenance program log continued from our last update in June. The trail season has had its difficulties so far, from extremely hot days, to rain that will flood a trail making it is impassible for days to come. To the extreme growth occurring after the rains, along with the sheer numbers of bugs and major tasks that need to be done. Though, I can honestly say that much work has been done and completed on the trails up to this point, but it hasn't' been an easy job. As I am always looking for new and better ways to improve maintenance upon the trails, I have definitely had to adapt and overcome to the whims of Mother Nature this season. After having completed a first clearing, and second run through on all the trails, I turned my attention to improvements and ways to expedite maintenance.

Great pond trail: At the beginning of the season, I had done minimal work on this trail, just a basic clearing. Upon my return, the trail was definitely ready to be cleaned and cleared, as it did not take too long for it to fill in. A large tree had fallen on the backside of the pond just past the rock steps, which I had cut and removed. The entryway at Fenway rd. was sheered back and week whacked down from the beginning to the beach. All grass on the trail was weed whacked down to the ground, replaced logs that line the side of the trail sheered and weed whacked the floating dock. In addition, I trimmed back any limbs that protrude into the path

(Note) the rock steps are starting to give way, and I am sure there are multiple causes for this. However, I believe it is something to keep an eye on; this could lead to falls and or injuries. It is a rather steep incline

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Whale back way: Whale back trail was a bit over grown when I arrived for the first cut of the season. I used the brush hog to mow everything down and out to the perimeter I had set the previous years.

Following the brush hog, I sheered and trimmed the sides of the trail so nothing protrudes in the pathway. Finally I weed whacked everything on the ground chopping up the debris and bringing the grass and weeds lower to the ground. I also checked for and removed any broken branches that may be unsafe throughout the trail. The new bridge at the Rt. 77 end of the trail is wonderful; I was rather surprised when I saw it for the first time. I believe any remaining work that needs to be done is to cut back the tree that fell last season. It was cut back to make the trail passable but what is left is quite an eye soar and should be trimmed up and removed. Besides the general maintenance, this is my main priority for this trail.

Cross Hill: The Cross Hill Trail is in a mixed state it sometimes becomes hard to maintain because I cannot spend too much time in one area. I can only get sections done in my three-day maintenance period. Therefore, when one section is done by the time I get to the second or third section, the first has regrown to or beyond its previous point Cross Hill is the longest and most diverse trail as it goes through the woods, power lines, low land, and wetlands. Each section is worked the same but some take more work than others. I started clearing Cross Hill by brush hogging the power lines from Cross Hill rd. to the pond at Jordan's farm and back. After that, the underbrush and anything protruding into the pathway is sheered back. In addition, minor weed whacking is done down by the pond and street crossings so that signage may be seen. Next I started opening the neighborhood trailheads by clearing around the signage and making the trails visible to the people as they pass by. All but one trailhead has been opened. This is the trailhead on Cross Hill rd. before the power lines. It currently has five trees that have fallen across the path with a couple of large trees leaning, which might have to be taken down for safety reasons. This is high priority on my list of things to do. I just have to finish going through the entire trail to make sure there are no other downed trees so we can get it all cleaned up at once. I have also walked through the trail cutting back vegetation and any growth that protrudes.

(Notes) At the four ways cross on the power lines, a small bridge had washed down stream about 60 feet. My goal is to retrieve the bridge while trying to keep it in the best shape possible and reset it in place so it will not wash away again. If retrieval is not possible, I do suggest that another bridge be constructed to replace the missing one. Some minor groundwork may need to be done to flatten the areas on both sides of the banks. Other than that, I see no serious issues with Cross Hill Trail system.

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Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>
To: Robert Malley <robert.malley@capeelizabeth.org>

Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 3:58 PM

Great! Very good suggestions, especially as the CC wants more involvement.

Thank you and Brendan very much.

Maureen
[Quoted text hidden]
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Maureen O'Meara
Cape Elizabeth Town Planner
320 Ocean House Rd
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
(207) 799-0115
maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org

Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org> Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 4:00 PM
To: Dick Bauman <northriver843@yahoo.com>, Garvan Donegan <Garvan.Donegan@maine.edu>, James Wagner <jamiewagnerlaw@gmail.com>, Jim Tasse <jamestasse@mac.com>, John Planinsek <tplaninsek@myfairpoint.net>, Marti Blair <martiblair@maine.rr.com>, Mitch Wacksman <mitch_wacksman@hotmail.com>, Zach Matzkin <zmatzkin@mac.com>

Perhaps we should talk about this at our October meeting?

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Maureen O'Meara
Cape Elizabeth Town Planner
320 Ocean House Rd
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
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martiblair@maine.rr.com <martiblair@maine.rr.com> Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 4:02 PM
To: Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Hi Maureen, I may be a little late tonight as I am in the middle of helping my son move. Thanks, Marti

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