

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Attendance: Commission members Mike Pulsifer, Mike Duddy, Carol Haas, John Herrick, Jonah Rosenfield, David Sterling and Dick Bauman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pulsifer at 7:08.
2. By unanimous vote, the Commission accepted November's meeting minutes as written.
3. **Correspondence:**
 - Rachel Stamieszkin's recent email to Maureen concerning erosion problems at a trailhead on Stonegate Road was discussed. Carole volunteered to take and email photographs of the site to Commission members so that we can discuss how to remedy the condition at our next meeting.
 - On Thursday, December 14 a neighborhood meeting will be held to discuss access to and preservation of an 18 acre parcel adjacent to the Sherwood Forest and Oakhurst neighborhoods. The meeting notice, a parcel map and agenda was distributed to Commission members for discussion.

Maureen informed the Commission that she and John Planinsek had recently walked portions of the property, which is wooded and has extensive areas of wet ground. She noted that John has been making a considerable effort to improve the trails by placing rocks at locations where it is especially muddy.

Maureen understands the Town has a 25 percent ownership share of the parcel and no change in its status can occur without Town approval. She will be speaking at the meeting and will summarize what transpires in an email to the Commission.
4. **Budget Review.** The Commission was provided with an accounting of expenses charged to the Town budget's Greenbelt Account and the remaining balance as of December 7, 2006.
5. **Trail Improvements.**
 - Cross Hill trails. The Commission was informed that the new Cross Hill trails group constructed a total of 120 feet of boardwalk in several wet areas of their trail system. The work occurred on various days in November and December. A good turnout of neighborhood volunteers was assisted by several members of the Commission.
 - Gull Crest trails. The Commission was advised that a contract has been signed with *Custom Float Systems* to supply and install a floating walkway system on the Gull Crest Outer Loop Trail. Before the walkway can be transported to the site, a number of telephone poles already located there will have to be moved. At our January meeting, the Commission will formulate a plan move the poles out of the way.

- Stonegate trails. A small quantity of lumber not needed for the replacement of Stonegate trail bridges is currently stored on Carol's property. The material will be moved and stored in anticipation of being used for future Cross Hill projects.
- Great Pond trails. At November's meeting, the Commission requested preparation of a Capital Improvement request to fund replacement of boardwalk at Great Pond with the same floating system that will be installed on the Gull Crest Outer Loop Trail, assuming it performs as expected. The draft request for 325 feet of boardwalk, costing almost \$50,000, was reviewed and approved for submission on behalf of the Commission.

Maureen noted that she and Mike McGovern had recently toured various Greenbelt trails, including the Great Pond trail and the Manager expressed concerns about the safety of the Great Pond boardwalk.

Maureen informed the Commission she planned to present a report to the Town Council describing the trail projects accomplished by the Commission and volunteers during 2006. All members agreed that this had been a very productive year and were pleased the Council would be informed. Several members said they would attend the Council meeting and participate in the presentation.

- 6. Meeting of Conservation Commissions in Cumberland County.** Conservation Commissions have been asked to send representatives to a meeting being held on December 13 in Westbrook. Topics of common interest will be discussed and a determination made as to whether Commissions are interested in working together to support relevant initiatives at the State level. Mike Duddy agreed to represent our Commission at the meeting. John may also attend.
- 7. Planning Board.** No Planning Board matters were referred to the Conservation Commission for consideration at this meeting.

This is the last meeting David and Jonah attended as members of the Commission. Their service and dedication was noted with thanks. Maureen told the Commission that one new Commission member, Dena DeSena, had already been appointed.

- 8.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The next regular Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2007.