

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Attendance: Commission members, Mike Pulsifer, Randy Clark, Mike Duddy, Carol Haas, and Dick Bauman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.
2. The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as written.
3. **Correspondence.** Email from Lissa Robinson, Chair of the Falmouth Conservation Commission, announced a meeting on Wednesday, March 14 to inform the public about an invasive species demonstration project scheduled for April 28 and 29 on Mackworth Island. Interested members of our Commission are invited to attend either of the events. Randy and Dick expressed interest in the demonstration but did not know if other commitments would preclude their attendance.

On the subject of invasive species, Fort Williams Park and Winnick Woods were mentioned as having significant invasive species infestations.

4. **Winnick Woods Master Plan Implementation.** At the February meeting, Winnick Woods trail construction and related tasks were put at the top of the Commission's 2007 project priority list. At this meeting, members decided that the Winnick Trail should be flagged and cleared, the potting shed rebuilt to serve as an informational kiosk and parking lot construction completed.

The suggestion was made and agreed to that Winnick Trail clearing would be done as a Trails Day project, in June. Prior to clearing, the trail route must be flagged and that will be started by Commission members on March 24 at 9 a.m.

Maureen advised the Commission that Public Works, which has already done some parking lot clearing and grading, is likely to finish the job in the next few months. She will discuss the matter further with Bob Malley and report back to the Commission.

Members also discussed the need for a large sign located near the parking lot to identify Winnick Woods as a component of the Town's greenbelt trail system. After briefly discussing the sign's content and design, Maureen volunteered to have a layout drafted for consideration at the Commission's next meeting.

Maureen will also prepare a Trails Day article for the Cape Courier.

In the course of discussing trail work, mention was made of the capital funds requested for greenbelt improvements in the Town Manager's 2007 - 2008 budget proposal. If the Council approves the funding, Commission members recognize

that additional time and effort will be required to carefully plan the projects on which the money is spent.

- 5. Great Pond Winter Festival.** The Commission reviewed the planning of this year's festival to determine what could be done to better prepare for future Great Pond events. One idea generated by the discussion is to make sure that anyone who has a role in making final preparations and decisions is able to readily communicate with all of the others. In that regard, if the event is held on a Saturday, it would be more likely that individuals who might have to be reached at the last minute are available.

The point was also made that holding the Festival earlier in the winter would make a weather-related cancellation less likely.

The final suggestion was to discuss with Bob Malley what, if anything, Public Works can do to have a cleared area of ice available on festival day. It was speculated that clearing the ice after every storm might be the answer.

- 6. Neighborhood Trail Groups.** The Commission decided that September would be a good time for the trail group liaisons designated at last month's meeting to contact prospective volunteers and make arrangements for trail walks to identify work needing to be done.
- 7. Gull Crest.** Maureen reported that the floating boardwalk sections are constructed and will be brought to the site in late March. As previously noted, telephone poles in the way will have to be moved before the boardwalk can be installed. Maureen will try to arrange a time when Skip Murray and Mike Duddy can meet at the site to identify the poles that are in the way. Ideally, the poles will be relocated close to where they will be needed for a future boardwalk project.
- 8. Planning Board.** The March Planning Board meeting is cancelled.
- 9. Monthly Trail Walk.** As noted above, this month's walk is scheduled for March 24 at 9 a.m. to flag the Winnick Trail at Winnick Woods.
- 10.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:41. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 2007.