

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Attendance: Commission members Dick Bauman, Dena Desena , Carole Haas, John Planinsek,; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara, Frank Strout attended on behalf of the Land Trust, Joel Fitzpatrick and Owen McCullough also attended to discuss progress on a condominium development on Eastman Rd.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Dick Bauman was unanimously elected president.
3. John Planinsek was voted in as secretary with one dissenting vote.
4. December's meeting minutes were approved without change.
5. Copies of 2008 Conservation Commission Meeting dates and times were reviewed and approved.
6. Copies of Cape Elizabeth Town Council minutes concerning the Conservation Commission recommended bond issues trail improvements were reviewed. The Town Manager is recommending that maintenance equipment be deleted and those funds added to the land acquisition line because bond issue money typically is only used for materials that have a minimum 20 year life span. Dick Bauman has agreed to attend the January 14th town council meeting to answer any questions that may be brought forward by the town council.
7. Frank Strout from Cape Elizabeth Land Trust gave an update on ongoing discussion being held with a land owner. Progress has been made on mapping wetlands and delineating building sites. The next step is to have the property assessed.
8. Joel Fitzpatrick and Owens McCullough of Wyley Enterprises gave a presentation on the latest developments for 48 condo units at 68 Eastman Road. Some highlights include;
 - Due to RP1 setbacks restrictions, the housing development plans have become more compressed which leaves more open space. Approximately 27 acres or 60% of the total land mass will stay as open green space.
 - The plans call for access to Winnick Woods through two different trails. The southern trail might actually start on the walkway in the condo development and Joel Fitzpatrick expressed some concern over mountain bike or non-foot travel.
 - Public parking to access green trails will be allowed at the pump station.

- A portion of the development, referred to as the Sprague parcel, will be donated to the town for green trail development.

- The larger of the two ponds on the site still has plans for a future clubhouse to be built adjacent to it. There was talk about possibly deepening and landscaping the pond to make it more appealing.

9. Ongoing Project Update

Winnick Woods – Work on the shed put off until Spring or until the weather allows easier access. There were discussion that if Winnick Woods parking lot is expanded to look for ways to make it more accessible to plowing by the town so that it could be used in the winter months.

Gull Crest – Skip Murray will be going into Gull Crest while the ground is firm to deposit some gravel. In the short term this may be a little messy and unappealing.

Fort Williams – Fort Williams committee has discussed adding another pedestrian gate to access green trails on the other side of Shore Road. They seem to be open to the idea, still need to work out details.

Signs – Copies of a mock draft for trail signs was presented. Proposed signs would be by metal, 18 in by 12 in and include the town seal and the wording, “Cape Elizabeth Trail System, Maintained by the Town of Cape Elizabeth”. Committee members decided to order 20 of the above signs at a cost of approximately \$70 ea.

Great Pond Winter Festival – The decision was made not to move forward with the Great Pond Winter festival at this time. Talk of possible celebration for the area later in the year when Great Pond Projects, (bridge, boardwalk, boat racks) are completed.

10. GIS Mapping – Maureen O’Meara said she would put Steve Ballou of the Land Trust in contact with John Planinsek to move forward on possible testing of GIS mapping of the Stonegate and Loveitt green trails system.

11. The decision was made to contact Ken Cyr and invite him to the February board meeting to discuss construction of the bridge over Alewife stream at Great Pond.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 9.05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2008.

