

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Attendance: Conservation Commission members: Dick Bauman, Catherine Haas, John Planinsek, Judith Dooley, Mike Duddy, John Marchewka; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara; Guest Nate Murray.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. December 2008 draft minutes were revised then accepted.
3. Election of officers for 2009:
 - Chairman: Dick Bauman
 - Secretary: John Marchewka
4. Motion was made and approved to accept the 2009 Conservation Commission meeting schedule: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.
5. The Commission members discussed trail projects with student volunteer Nate Murray. Nate agreed to complete various trail maintenance projects on the Green Belt trails. Nate will provide equipment and labor at no charge. The Conservation Commission will be invoiced for fuel and materials associated with various project that are pre-approved by the Commission. Mike Duddy will meet with Nate Saturday, January 16th to walk proposed maintenance areas and discuss projects. Nate will provide the Commission with a materials and fuel cost estimate for completing the projects, prior to initiation.
6. The Commission made a Motion to spend up to \$1,500 for fuel and materials for trail maintenance by Nate Murray with the condition that the Commission review and approve cost estimates prior to beginning work. Motion was approved.
7. Trail Evaluation Project
 - Develop objectives.
 - Trail signage is the Commission's top priority for 2009.
 - Commission agreed to put up "No Motorized Vehicles" signs on trails that have existing deed restrictions prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles.
 - Due to budget issues, the Commission decided to postpone the expansion of the Winnick Woods parking lot as discussed and approved during the December 2008 Site meeting at Winnick Woods. As an alternative, a motion was made to recommend that the Town allocate funds sufficient to expand the Winnick Woods parking lot to accommodate six additional parking spaces. Motion was approved.
 - Commission discussed various ways in which to best allocate available resources to the development and maintenance of all the trail systems. Discussed the possibility of developing a tiered classification where some trails become the Town's "signature" trails, thus requiring a higher percentage of the Commission's available resources, while other trails would be rated lower, such that occasional maintenance would be performed. Commission agreed to continue these discussions during subsequent meetings.

8. Trail Information and Town Web Site
 - The Commission discussed developing content, materials, and links to be incorporated into the Town's web site for use by the public.
 - Link on the Town's web site would direct users to a "Green Belt Trails" page, which would include trail descriptions, restrictions, maps, photographs, and other useful materials and information to the public.
 - Commission will develop outline for the Town web site link and begin collecting and developing content for the Green Belt Trails web pages.
 - Commission members will complete GPS mapping of the following trails: Gull Crest, Crescent Beach, Two Lights Road to State Park, Great Pond, and Whaleback.

9. Commission members reviewed the revised plan for the proposed Eastman Meadows condominium project as it relates to public trail access and trail use parking.
 - The Commission recommends to the Planning Board that the Town obtain an approximate 100 ft maintenance easement along the unpaved access road located off the south side of Eastman Road, next to the trail head. This will assure that the Town has access rights for maintenance of a parking area, which has been designated to serve trial users.
 - Commission-members will field verify the best route for the south portion of the trail, where it exits the proposed Eastman Meadows trail easement and enters onto the Town owned Winnick Woods trail system. The existing mapped location of the south portion of the trail easement apparently enters into a very wet area that would cause a "dead end trail", preventing a connection to the Winnick Woods trail system. Commission members will GPS a revised trail location for the south portion of the Eastman Meadows trail easement and present recommendations to the Planning Board.

10. The monthly trail walk will be at the proposed Eastman Meadows trial easement – scheduled for noon on January 25th.

11. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.