

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Attendance: Conservation Commission members: Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, Judith Dooley, Mike Duddy; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara; Guest Steve Ballou.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.
2. Broad Cove Trail Sign. Mr. Sweeney of Broad Cove Road attended the meeting to express concerns with a greenbelt sign installed next to his house. In 1994, people would pull in the paved area, party in the woods. It took 6 years to get the activity to stop. He wants the sign removed and put somewhere else. His neighbors use the path and he put a bridge over the ditch. He wants the sign moved to the other side of the ditch so it feels private from the road to the ditch.

Commission members agreed that they needed to see the sign location and then consider options.

3. Trail Mapping. Jim Fisher has volunteered to collect GPS points to map existing town trails in partnership with John Planinsek. Jim has collected data for trails in Stonegate and Gull Crest. He provided maps of the data collected. He will continue to collect trail data and will send the data to Maureen O'Meara for addition to the town trail maps.
4. Great Pond 8th grade trail project. Mike Duddy, representing the Conservation Commission, is coordinating with Steve Ballou, representing the Land Trust, to coordinate the projects for the 8th grade community project. Trail improvements will be located from Kettle Cove Dairy/Great Pond trail to Fenway Rd and also the Fowler Rd access trail to Gull Crest.

Mike noted that some damage had been done to the new boardwalk. Maureen will call Steve Merriam of Great Northern Docks to get the damage repaired at the same time the new corner is added.

Based on field walks by Steve Ballou and Mike Duddy, Steve Ballou summarized the 8th grade projects as follows:

- (1) Along the low portion of Golden Ridge Lane trail, add gravel.
- (2) Over Alewife Stream, brush encroached on trail for about 80', needs to be brushed out.
- (3) Toward Sandy Beach, 2 sections of sinkholes/low lying depression, spread gravel and add culvert. Suggest geotextile on all areas. Maureen said we need to check with Bruce Smith whether this will require a Resource Protection Permit.

Mike said that two sections of boardwalk equaling a 60' x 5' wide section would be the extent of alteration to the area.

- (4) From Golden Ridge to overlook, build boardwalk crossing (Mike Duddy to prepare materials list)
- (5) Fowler Rd access, vegetation has grown through boardwalk and it needs to be brushed out
- (6) Nate Murray gravel trail should be regraded

John Planinsek noted that he had built a new ramp off the boardwalk on the Gull Crest side of the Fowler Rd access with materials that were there.

Commission members questioned which color flagging they should follow for the relocated trail. It was noted that the 8th grade project leaders prefer that no chainsaws be used when the kids are there, but at least that no trees be cut down when the kids are onsite. The project will begin on May 26th at 8:45 a.m.. Mike Duddy will be there in the morning and Maureen will also check in.

The Commission would also like to rent a chipper for tree limbs of up to 3" in diameter.

- 5. April 14th meeting minutes. The minutes were approved 4-0.
- 6. Signs installed. Maureen reported that Public Works has installed 14 greenbelt trailhead signs. Maureen will call Dave Rogers at Village Crossings about installing signage.

Richard Bauman said he and John Marchewka installed signs at Gull Crest, except for the stretch of trail from the Outer Loop to the bridges.

The Commission agreed to discuss signage in Gull Crest at the June meeting. Maureen agreed to start the greenbelt website map materials for review next month.

- 7. Review Rates proposals received. The commission reviewed proposals to perform maintenance work on the trails. The trail from the Gull Crest parking lot to the woods needs mowing and Public Works will be contacted with the request.

The Commission asked Maureen to inquire about a specific price from Skip Murray to mow, once a month for 4 months, the Winnick Woods trail and meadow.

8. Monthly trail walk. The Commission agreed that visiting the Broad Cove Trail location and prep for the 8th grade project would be the monthly trail event. Commission members agreed to drive by on their own.
9. Moved by Mike Duddy and seconded by John Planinsek, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.