

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Attendance: Conservation Commission members: Dick Bauman, Mike Duddy, Judith Dooley, John Marchewka; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara. Guest: Jim Tasse, New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA).

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.
2. November 10, 2009 and December 8, 2009 Draft minutes were reviewed and approved by the CC.
3. Election of 2010 Officers  
CC members discussed the election of officers for 2010. Dena DeSena was nominated to serve as Chair and John Marchewka was nominated to serve a second term as Secretary. Both Nominations were approved by unanimous vote. Dena DeSena was not present at the meeting, so outgoing Chair Dick Bauman Chaired the January 12, 2010 meeting.
4. Discussion with Jim Tasse, NEMBA  
Jim Tasse, resident of Cape Elizabeth and member of NEMBA, expressed interest in assisting the Town and CC on open space and trail projects, including seeking funds for trail projects through his knowledge of available grant programs and his experience in obtaining grant funds for other Towns and non-profit entities. Mr. Tasse explained two grant opportunities: 1) "Let's Go", which is grant program up to \$5,000/grant that is given to projects promoting physical activity and 2) "Healthy Maine Partnership (HMP)", which provides technical assistance grants (\$500-\$1,000) to encourage healthy living in Maine. Examples of grant assistance projects include monies toward trail signage, maintenance and trail mapping.

Mr. Tasse was one of the principals in starting NEMBA and can assemble volunteers to assist the CC w/ trail building and maintenance project, as was successfully done for the boardwalk replacements performed by the CC at Winnick Woods in Fall 2009. Mr. Tasse indicated that the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), puts on a trail building school that is open to anyone interested. The trail building school teaches participants environmentally sound and sustainable trail building techniques and methods. Mr. Tasse will communicate with the CC on the next trail building school opportunity. CC discussed the possibility of developing "trail building standards" for Cape Elizabeth that would be used for future projects with the goal of defining users, building trails that are suitable and sustainable for the users, and maintaining an acceptable level of consistency in the trail design and construction throughout the Green Belt.

Dick Bauman requested that Mr. Tasse ask NEMBA members for feedback on potential trail trouble spots and communicate these to the CC. CC members also discussed the wet area problems on the Gull Crest outer loop trail with Mr. Tasse. CC and Mr. Tasse agreed to collaborate on developing various options for trail remediation in the outer loop section of the Gull Crest trail.

5. Sprague Easement Update

Dick Bauman and Maureen O'Meara updated the CC on the easement status. They indicated that the Town Council on January 11, 2010 reviewed easement documents and "gratefully" accepted the trail easements provided to the Town by the Sprague Corporation for the area around Great pond. CC discussed the plan for building the boat racks at Great Pond to comply with the Boat Storage Rules. Boat racks need to be built and in place for use by permitted users by the last Saturday of March 2010, which is the permitted season "start-up" for boat storage and usage at Great Pond. CC members will look at the Boat storage racks used at East End Beach in Portland and design and build suitable boat racks for use at Great Pond. CC will approach public works regarding using available indoor space for construction of the boat racks with the goal of public works assisting the CC with moving the boat racks into place at Great Pond prior to the March deadline.

6. Open Space and Greenbelt Management Plan

Maureen O'Meara informed the CC that the Town is requesting that the CC prepare a Management Plan for open space and trails. Maureen outlined various preliminary components of the management plan and CC members discussed and recommended the inclusion of other possible topics. The draft list of Management Plan components is as follows:

- *Define users and overall objectives of the Town's open space and trail systems*
- *Sign visibility*
- *Mapping*
- *Annual maintenance*
- *User conflicts*
- *Parking*
- *Abutter encroachment*
- *Tree removal*
- *Liaison with neighborhood groups*
- *Annual inspections*
- *Review of other Town management plans*
- *Public meetings*
- *Hours of use and types of use*
- *Pets*
- *Easements and deed restrictions*
- *Development of a consistent model for easement descriptions*
- *Consistent design standards for trails*

- *Funding*
- *Define responsibilities of care takers*
- *Web site*

7. Misc. Trail Improvement Projects

- Coordinate meeting time with resident and CC regarding walk over of Whale Back Way trail and discuss trail upgrades.
- John to contact supplier for more information of Great Pond boardwalk pole caps. Determine if the proposed replacement caps edges can be smoothed down.
- Town Council approved sending a request to the Planning Board to remove restrictions on pet leashes and hours of use for the Winnick Woods trail.

8. Fowler Road Open Space

CC discussed the possible purchase of an open space parcel along Fowler Road. Members discussed the value of the parcel vs. the cost. The CC made a motion to recommend not moving forward with purchase of the parcel, due to the belief that the parcel would provide limited value to the overall open space and Green Belt system. Motion was seconded and approve.

9. On-line Green Belt Maps

Maureen O'Meara discussed the missing pieces of the GIS'd mapped green belt trails. The CC agreed to send out an RFP for completing the mapping of the trail systems.

10. Berry Subdivision Plan

CC discussed the Berry Subdivision plan and reviewed property layouts, septic system location, and mapped wetland locations. A motion was made to recommend to the Planning Board to keep septic systems within the subdivision's plan building envelopes and maintain a minimum 25ft buffer between the wetland boundaries and all septic system components.

11. CC members reviewed the Woodlands Assisted living design plans. No comments to Planning Board.

12. No trail walk was scheduled for the month of January.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm.