

Conservation Commission Minutes of May 11, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dena DeSena.

Attendance: Dick Bauman, Dena DeSena, Judy Dooley, John Planinsek, Jessica Sullivan, Town Council Liaison, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

1. Minutes. Judy Dooley agreed to prepare minutes in John Marchewka's place during his leave of absence. Maureen will prepare the March 2010 minutes. The April 13, 2010 minutes were moved approved by Dick Bauman, seconded by John Planinsek, and a vote of 4-0.
2. Maureen described the Town Council draft Communication Policy, emphasizing an expanded effort to go paperless and to allow citizens to speak at meetings. The Commission agreed that they want to continue to receive their meeting packets in the mail, and Maureen said she will also send the packages by email. The Commission agreed that they currently allow the public to speak at their meetings, but would like to institutionalize it. It was agreed that "citizen discussion" would be a standing second item on the Conservation Commission agenda. The Commission discussed allowing 5 minutes per person and decided they should prepare Rules of Procedure for conducting meetings. Maureen agreed to prepare a draft for their review at the next meeting.
3. The Commission reviewed pending work on trails as follows:
 - Whaleback - John Planinsek said the trail needs weed-whacking. He will do some clipping in 2-3 weeks. The commission will discuss at the next meeting.
 - Great Pond deck caps - on hold until next month.
 - Great Pond Boat storage - update on use of racks
 - Winnick Woods - Dena met with Scott Townsend. They will have a crowd of bikers there on May 16th from 8:00 a.m. to noon to spread the gravel. A member of the Conservation Commission should be there to help direct locations. Maureen will call Jay Cox to let him know this work will be happening. John Planinsek reported that the third map box has now been destroyed.
 - Leighton - The Commission will hold a trail work event on June 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., starting at Wells Rd and working up the hill. Maureen will send a notice to the neighborhoods and email trail volunteers.

4. The Commission discussed the Open Space Management Plan work they are beginning. They agreed to begin the Open Space Management Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. on the same night as the regular Commission meeting, until such time as the work load requires a separate meeting.

The Commission discussed the public forum schedule. They agreed to hold a public forum on June 16th, from 7-9 p.m. The Commission left open the possibility to hold another public forum when a plan draft is ready. The June forum will feature the Town Council authorization, a review of the open space map and highlights of town owned open space, and encouraging public comment. Maureen will submit a publicity article to the Courier and other papers that features the Town Council authorization. The press release was drafted at the meeting and approved by the Commission. The Commission agreed that the focus of the plan would be town owned land and easements, and would include parcels owned by the Land Trust where the Town had ownership rights.

The Commission reviewed a draft outline. They added coordination with the Land Trust and connection to abutting properties. Maureen will work on collecting deed information. The commission also would like to prepare recommendations on what issues the town should consider in future joint acquisitions with the Land Trust.

The Commission agreed for the June forum that the presentation will include town owned land and town owned easements. Jessica asked that this be presented in categories of each. Mike Duddy emphasized that all properties for which the Town has easement rights should be included

5. The Commission reviewed the Public Participation Plan. They agreed on a schedule of meetings to be posted, 8 p.m. as the starting time and redrafting of public participation plan as noted.
6. The Commission added policing/security, trapping and financing to the list of issues to be covered in the plan. The plan should reference a master plan for open space, when it exists. The outline will be redrafted per comments.
7. The Commission reviewed the Planning Board agenda. Regarding the 1055 Shore Road Private Accessway permit, they are concerned that the 15" proposed culvert is not big enough to prevent water backing up onto Robinson Woods in a rain event. They voted to send comments to the Planning Board noting this concern.
8. They agreed that the monthly trail walk will be held during the May 16th Winnick Woods improvements. Commission members will also try to visit 1055 Shore Rd.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

Maureen O'Meara
Town Planner