

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2011

Present: Dena DeSena, Zach Matzkin, Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, Garvan Donegan, Marti Blair, Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Citizen's comments. None.
3. Minutes of February 8, 2011 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
4. Correspondence. None.
5. Planning Board informational meeting. April 5th at 6:30, pizza served. A soils scientist is coming in. The last item on that agenda is History of the Greenbelt. Conservation Commission members are encouraged to attend.
6. Great Pond boats storage 2011 Update. 25 permit applications have come in. If more than 32 come in, there will be a lottery drawing on March 15.
7. Budget update. Maureen's section is being reviewed on March 16. The 640 account will probably be reviewed on March 21. The Commission's memo requesting money for a maintenance worker was included in the budget document the Council received. It would be helpful for Conservation Commissioners to attend. It was suggested that we cancel our next Open Space Management Committee meeting (scheduled for Tuesday, March 22) and instead attend the Finance Committee budget review meeting on Monday, March 21. All agreed.
8. Spurwink River bridge access improvements. Maureen met with Chris Franklin of the Land Trust and he agreed that whatever the City does on our side, the Land Trust will do on their side of the bridge. The bridge was underwater at the high tide this week. It makes sense to use gravel on the Land Trust side and a wooden boardwalk on our side. We will wait for the weather to improve before taking any action. Maureen will get some estimates together. Public Works can get the wood in to the top of the hill, then we would need to transport it down to the bridge, maybe by ATV. The Commissioners can build the bridge.
9. Planning Board review. No items of interest to the Commission.
10. March's trail walk. There was an amazing amount of snow. The land near the road at the old Poor Farm is privately owned, but under easement. We have an easement, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust has another easement, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has an easement on the same land the town owns. The easements dictate what can be done to the structures, which are owned by the Barbers. There's a trail in the back, it comes around to Spurwink. Behind that land is the Town Farm, which the town owns but the Land Trust has a 50 year easement. The parcel around Spurwink Church is owned in fee by the town. There are some great vistas where it would be nice to lay out some trails. The Jordan original cemetery is in there, with tall trees, small headstones, and a view of

the marsh. Some signs would be helpful to show people where the trail goes. The bridge has fallen down, but last year Public Works cut an access to Spurwink Road, then you can walk around the brook, and get back in.

11. Monthly trail walk. Saturday, April 2 at 8:00. Meet at Kettle Cove ice cream stand on Rte. 77 and go into Great Pond from that direction.
12. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting will be April 12.