

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2011

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Citizen's comments. None.
3. Minutes of March 8, 2011 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
4. Correspondence. None.
5. Winnick Woods improvements. A group of Commissioners went out to inspect the trail, unfortunately Scott Townsend was not able to be present. There was a tree down. Signage is great going to the right, but when the leaves are covering the ground, the trail is not obvious. There is a noticeable problem with the signage taking the left side trail. Two ramps have very steep bumps, which we assume the NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) folks will want to fix. They are planning to have a clean up day on May 1. They still have piles of gravel to use. The plan is to fix two bridges, bring in blowers and blow leaves off the trail to make it more visible, and spread the gravel.

The Planner questioned whether utilizing blowers in a conservation area is appropriate, when we do have a focus of reducing our carbon footprint. The consensus was that using blowers is ok. The trails are not supposed to be groomed, and blowing the leaves may fall into that category. Removing the leaves is a safety concern for the bikers to make the trails less slippery. Zach will meet with Scott in advance of May 1 to review their work plan. Two or three Commissioners may attend the cleanup day.

Motion: To allow the NEMBA people to work on the trails on May 1st. Unanimously approved.

6. Spurwink River Bridge access improvements. The two 8 foot sections need to be moved back into alignment, which will probably take 6 or 8 people. Those will then be braced in to prevent further movement. Then it's about another 12 feet up the hill. Three 4x6x12 pressure treated boards will be laid down vertically, then fifteen 1x6x8 boards will be attached horizontally, and nailed.

On the other side, 75 feet of gravel is needed. The Planner will meet Skip Murray out there. That side will be more expensive. We will offer to split the cost with the Land Trust. Saturday, May 14 at 8:00 a.m. will be the work day. Meet at the kiosk at the Gull Crest cross country ski trail.

The Greenbelt trail in that area is grown over. On the work day, we can also walk the old Greenbelt trail and see where we want it to go.

7. Great Pond Boat Storage Racks. One of the original lottery winners declined, another name was drawn, and happened to be someone who had a permit last year and was glad

to have this year's. One of the boat racks was tipped over, so Public Works had to right it. This year we are going to check the status of boats on the rack periodically. The Planner has prepared a checklist which she will use to keep track of usage, and Commissioners can also. 8 people who applied for permits didn't get them.

8. FOSP Committee Update. Dick Bauman reporting. The Committee has met, reviewed their charge, elected John Greene as Chairman and Wayne Brooking as Vice Chairman. Secretary duties will rotate alphabetically, and Dick has already acquitted himself well. The meeting schedule is approximately one meeting a month. At the second meeting the Planner made an informative presentation about the Town's Open Spaces and how they were acquired. Chris Franklin of the Land Trust discussed the Trust's outreach efforts in meeting with landowners, and their development of maps that identify specific areas that they would classify as important for recreation, for wildlife habitat, for particular soils. Plans including the Comprehensive Plan and the Cape Farm Alliance's Plan were considered. An item for consideration will be the costs and benefits of leaving property as open space versus developing it. A consultant will develop that analysis.

The FOSP Committee has a link on the Town website, which includes maps. The Land Trust's maps will be posted there as well.

9. Planning Board review.

Golden Ridge Subdivision Amendment. Located off Rte. 77 across from Kettle Cove ice cream. Golden Ridge Lane was approved to a higher standard than it now is. One of the large lots has been sold, and the new owners want to subdivide. It's in an RP1 zone, which requires a 250 foot buffer. A way to reduce the buffer to 100 feet is to prove that the watershed drains away. Their Civil Engineer has established a new watershed divide line, and the CEO has approved it. There is now a building envelope and a lot of 1.84 acres. Once the road is widened, the Greenbelt Trail that runs alongside it will become a lot more visible and lose its buffer.

Rosewood Subdivision Amendment. Located off Woodland Road. The owner of the last lot on Rosewood Drive wants to subdivide. When it was originally created, it was a five-lot minor subdivision, with a sixth lot it will be a major subdivision. Since he can't give land, he is willing to pay the fee.

10. Monthly trail walk. May 1 at Winnick Woods and tentative May 14 at Gull Crest.
11. New Public Works position for a part-time maintenance worker for trail work. Although the budget has not been finally approved, the position appears to be okay.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. Next meeting will be May 10.