

Conservation Commission Minutes

June 14, 2011

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Citizen comments. None.
3. Minutes of May 10, 2011 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
4. Correspondence. Email on grant opportunities. We received an email from Bob Shafto regarding two grant competitions. The Orton Family Foundation grant is very difficult to obtain. The Irving Community Fuel Grant Program provides money for "programs that help to preserve the natural environment for generations to come." A possibility would be replacing the 51 feet long Pollack Creek bridge off Spurwink Ave. There is a committee studying the cemetery that is interested in a possible trail connector. The Commission has some funds available from this year's carryforward and next year's allotment, those funds could be used for match. The grant amount is up to \$15,000, due June 30.

Another possibility is to redesign and rebuild the Gull Crest fields trail. The money could go toward an Engineering study.

Motion: To authorize the Town Planner to write a grant to the Irving Community Fuel Grant for replacement of the Pollack Creek Bridge and to authorize matching funds from our budget up to \$6000. Passed 4-1 (Bauman)

5. FY11 Budget Update. We have a new budget appropriation of \$8000 and a carryforward from 2010 of \$2551 for a total of \$10,551 available.
6. 2011 Annual Maintenance Plan. The new Public Works employee started this week and will be putting in 20 hours a week on trail maintenance until October. He will start out with the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan activities. Bob Malley created a Trail Maintenance Record sheet to keep track of what he does on various trails.

It was suggested that maintenance of the parking lot area (cutting around the well, for ex.) at Winnick Woods be added. Also add cutting back the vegetation where the power line intersects Cross Hill Road.

7. Spurwink River Bridge access improvements. The Land Trust authorized their expenditure for their side and Skip Murray will be going in to do the work.
8. Great Pond Boat Racks. Alan Leathers lives near the Great Pond Trail and works on it. He put the caps on the boardwalk posts, and spray paints them. He identified trees that were a hazard and John Greene of Sprague took those down right away. One ramp end is "bouncy" and needs to be anchored.

The person who got spare space #32 has a large canoe that does not fit in his assigned space, so he locked his boat alongside. That led another person to think it was okay to store boats alongside the rack. Maureen located someone with a kayak who was willing to trade spaces. One person put a boat in the reeds, it was removed by Public Works. It was suggested that people who don't heed the rules be barred from slots in the future. New signs have been installed.

10. Monthly trail walk. Saturday, June 26 at 4:30. Meet in the Spurwink Church parking lot near the Portapot. After looking at the Pollack Creek Bridge site we'll go over to Highlands Trail.

11. Dena turned some names of potential volunteers over to Maureen.

12. Meeting adjourned at 7:53. Next meeting July 12, 2011.