

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 10, 2012

Attendance: Conservation Commission members: Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, John Marchewka, Garvan Donovan, Mitch Waxman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara; Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.
2. March 2012 Draft minutes were reviewed, then approved.
3. Correspondence
There was no correspondence to review.
4. Trail Maintenance Projects

Cross Hill

Mitch Waxman (CC member and NEMBA president) put together a material list and took pictures of the portion of trail to receive boardwalk. He estimates approximately \$1,300 for improvements and he will petition NEMBA to see if they would be willing to fund. He indicated it would be likely and if so, he would plan and conduct the work. Tentatively planning April 28th for completing project.

Mitch asked if NEMBA could put up signs indicating NEMBA funded project. CC members discussed and had some reservations around setting a precedent, but thought a temporary sign might be acceptable.

5. Horse Trail at Gull Crest

CC Members staked out the horse trail with the horse riding group (HRG) through the field portion of Gull Crest. Discussed another possible loop around football field, but it was determined that the CC did not have authority over the athletic fields. HRG was told they should go through school. The HRG had a structural engineer look at load specs and possible changes related to the bridge. Some of the thoughts they had for bridge improvements included: adding bumpers along both sides of the bridge, adding oak decking to the top of the bridge for additional structural support, and gravel to the off-bridge ends of the bridge to improve muddy conditions. HRG will come to CC with proposal for options on changes and improvements to bridge.

CC discussed trail signs for horses. Jessica Sullivan said she would research signs for greenbelt and horse trail signs.

6. New England Cotton Tail Restoration Project

NEC is interested in looking at Gull Crest for cotton tail habitat. NEC indicated that they might have funds available for tree cutting and habitat formation.

7. Town Farm Trail Cemetery on Town Easement

Maureen researched cemetery at library and historical society, as well as State Statutes on old cemeteries to determine if light tree cutting and clearing could be done to open up and enhance the Town Farm Trail Cemetery. Based on what she could find, it appears that the work can be done, although she emphasized that the information is not absolutely clear. Pending review of easement language, the CC made motion to approve the proposed cemetery rehab. Motion approved.

8. Leighton Farms Boundary Plantings

CC made motion to purchase six evergreen trees to plant along the boundary of the former private land owner encroachment. Public works would do the planting. Motion approved.

9. Stone Gate Trail Improvements

John P. estimates approximately \$2,000 to make needed improvements, which would include boardwalk, clearing, signage, and link to Robinson Woods trails. Maureen indicated that she would discuss funding of the project with the Town Manager and whether or not funding could be available before the CC's new budget cycle in July 2012.

10. Dyer Woods Open Space

Maureen showed pictures of Dyer Woods and the CC discussed possible improvements, funding, and timing of those improvements. Mitch Waxman indicated that he will talk to a friend that lives on Cliff Ave in the Dyer Woods area to see if he would be willing to assist the CC in coordinating a neighborhood clean-up and trail clearing effort.

11. Adventure Day – Cape HS Outing Club

Town asked to be added to the liability release form prepared by the Outing Club for the Adventure Day race to be held on Town Open Space at Gull Crest. The release form is to be signed by all participants in the race.

12. Budget Update

Maureen reviewed the CC's budget for the remainder of the cycle. CC has \$400 left in the budget until the next cycle begins in July 2012.

CC members decided that the trail walk for this month would coincide with the planned work at Cross Hill tentatively scheduled of April 28, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.