

Conservation Commission Minutes

June 12, 2012

Present: Garvan Donegan, Richard Bauman, John Marchewka, Zach Matzkin, John Planinsek, Mitch Wacksman, Marti Blair, Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Citizen Comments. None
2. Minutes of May 8, 2012 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
3. Correspondence. Jessica Sullivan reported receiving a letter from a Shore Road resident who was concerned that the impending pathway construction would disturb turtle nests and breeding turtles who cross Shore Road. She forwarded the letter to the Manager, Planner and Conservation Commission. The Public Works Director is in contact with the resident and the town is hiring a wildlife biologist to advise them on how to minimize impact on the turtles during construction.
4. Greenbelt Plan Update. The Plan was last updated in 2001, it is overdue for review.

The Planner read the Vision statement. The discussion of handicapped accessibility in the Vision statement is not realistic. The Planner explained the concept of a hub-and-spoke system with the trails all connected via the Town Center. There was discussion as to whether this is the current and appropriate goal of the Conservation Commission with respect to Greenbelt trails. Interconnectivity tends to be the interest of the Town Council.

A straw poll was taken and the Commission agreed that hub-and-spoke was no longer valid but should be replaced by a statement about interconnectivity. The Council Liaison and Commission Chair felt that the simplicity of hub-and-spoke is valuable, it is easy to grasp for the average citizen. The Greenbelt Plan's vision of connectivity was a major influence in the Council's support for Robinson Woods 2. Providing pedestrian access to the Town Center could be added as a criterion for parcel acquisition. There could be 3 goals within the Vision statement: neighborhood access, interconnectivity, access to Town Center. The Planner will re-draft the Vision statement.

On the map the orangeish lines and the yellow lines are conceptual trails.

The trail links from the 2001 Greenbelt Plan were reviewed.

Trail links #1 & 2 would connect Dyer Woods to Forest Road to the parcel the Management Plan calls this Holan Lots. It is really swampy in there. We would like to be able to connect Dyer Woods into the larger trail system. It might be possible to link from the southwest across Mitchell to connect up with Cottage Brook. It might also be possible to link directly south along

the western edge of Holan Lots down to Oakhurst. Then we would like to find access into Loveitt Woods in Stonegate Area.

New Trail Link #1: Dyer Woods to Loveitt Woods
New Trail Link #2: Dyer Woods to Cottage Brook
New Trail Link #3: Mitchell Road to Canterbury Hills

The act of recording a paper street provides rights of passage. Waverly Road has a paper street at the end linking to Stonybrook. It also goes to Shore Road.

New Trail Link #4: Stonybrook Road using Waverly Road paper street from Stonybrook to Shore Road.
New Trail Link #5: Loveitt Woods to Plaisted Park
New Trail Link #6: From Canterbury Easement to Bothel Easement

Old Trail Link #7 would connect from Beverly Terrace to Winnick Woods. The Commission talked about re-routing this potential trail.

New Trail Link #8: Spurwink across Purpoodock lot to Cross Hill.
New Trail Link #9: Route 77 at Bothel Easement through Purpoodock to Wildwood Easement.

Old Trail Link #10: Robinson Woods 2
Old Trail Link #11: Brentwood to Lions Field

Old Trail Link #13 (#12 was accomplished) Gull Crest to Runaway Farms
Old Trail Link #14 Fowler Road/Susan Road to Runaway Farms
Old Trail Link #17 (#15 and #16 were accomplished) From Old Ocean House Road at Davis Woods to Great Pond trail
Old Trail Link #18 Whaleback Ridge across Jordan Land to Great Pond trail
Old Trail Link #19 From Wentworth to Great Pond
New Trail Link #20 Avon Road in Shore Acres to Broad Cove Road
New Trial Link #21 Cut through from Shore Acres to Broad Cove

5. GPS mapping. Dale Brewer provided us with GPs map of Cross Hill and Leighton Farms.

6. Loveitt Woods invasives removal. A gentleman from Romania would like to do some work for the town. He will be working with Carol Haas for 20 hours on removal of invasive barberry plants in Loveitt Woods.

7. Dyer Woods site walk. Members of the Commission walked Dyer Woods with a member of the neighborhood. It's beautiful woods with a couple of ponds. There are easements to allow access points, including one from Fernwood Road. Jim Tasse wrote a grant for \$2500 for bridge construction work that must be in progress by the end of June. Brendan Sweeney can go in there and do some clean up. We need to figure out the access, which would mean doing a survey. The survey could be done in July, at that point we would like to send out an information letter to the

neighbors. There are multiple connecting paper streets, we should figure out which ones to incorporate. Workdays will be scheduled for weekday evenings in July.

8. Regional Trail Guide representation. There is an organization that is publishing a regional trails guide. Maureen told him about Winnick Woods, Great Pond, and Fort Williams.

9. Trail closures during bad weather. We can post closures to mountain biking when Bradbury Mountain closes their biking trails. We can put a notice on the website.

10. Monthly trail walk. Dyer Woods, a notice will go out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Next meeting: July 12, 2012.