

## Conservation Commission Minutes

October 9, 2012

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

Guests: A.J. DiNinno, Timothy DiNinno

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Minutes of April 10, 2012 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Correspondence. None.
3. Two Lights Trail Eagle Scout project. Tim DiNinno presented his proposal for replacing the boardwalks on the Highland Trail. He proposes to remove the current boardwalks and replace them with a series of 20 twelve by three foot sections, to be built by the Scout troop. They will transport them by utility trailer and carry them in. The sections will all be interconnected into one continuous boardwalk, except there is one big hummock that will have to be walked over.

The total cost estimate for Nature wood is \$1800 plus \$200 for spikes. Lumber prices are currently dropping dramatically, so that price will probably go down. The use of nails versus screws was questioned, with 2000 nails being purchased. Roughly, it would cost \$400 versus \$106 for screws versus nails. It would be nice to have the extra grip of a screw with the 2x6s. Impact drivers will be needed. The revised price would be approximately \$2300, NEMBA has agreed to commit \$750.

Motion: To approve the proposal Highlands Trail Boardwalk Eagle Project presented by Tim DiNinno in an amount not to exceed \$1800.

Passed unanimously

A Commissioner needs to be present at the trail site. When work dates are scheduled, Maureen needs to be notified a week in and she will notify the neighbors.

Some of the old boardwalks will be useable, there are some sections where they can be put down. Any material that needs to be disposed of can be taken to the side of the road and Public Works will pick it up.

Tim hopes to go before the Eagle board next week with his signed proposal. He plans to do the project this fall, over three full weekends.

4. Trail signs. Reasons for new signs:

- We need some signs to show that motorized vehicles are not allowed.

- To establish more of a presence that the trails are Town of Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt, maintained by the town.
- It would be nice to see a laminated “You are here” map at trailheads.
- Perhaps color coding could be used to delineate certain trails.

At this point, the Town Manager is not interested in providing new funding for this project. Using laminated paper, the Planner can make overall maps that could be posted at trailheads. A statement could be added to the effect that the trail is managed by the Town of Cape Elizabeth. The color coding project would take much more effort.

We can do a much better job of being sure that our G logo is used in all our documentation.

There was discussion of the appropriateness of large and colorful signs in the woods. It would be nice to have more eye-catching signs at the trailheads, especially at the roads. Perhaps those should be bigger.

It was suggested that the interior of the G could be kept the same color as the gray background, rather than having it be green. Perhaps white would work.

If we are going to try color-coding separate trails, we should do a test site at Winnick Woods.

Trailhead signs are currently 8x11. We would like to add Town of Cape Elizabeth.

Maureen will prepare maps for use on the trails, with road names labeled clearly and parcel boundaries removed. She will also prepare No Motorized Vehicles signs.

5. Town Farm Trail. Maureen found out from DEP that putting down gravel to stabilize the surface would require a special permit and be expensive in time and fees. The trail is within 250 feet of a special wetland. The alternative is to use erosion control mix, which we could put down as a maintenance exemption. Public Works would do the spreading. O’Donal’s has a product we could purchase.

Motion: To purchase erosion control mix for the Town Farm Trail in an amount not to exceed \$500.

Passed unanimously

6. Loveitt Woods. New landowners purchased property where there was a commonly used access to Loveitt Woods. Maureen went over the various lots and owners which may be possibilities for access. Some landowners will be contacted.

7. Canterbury. The landowner of a 10 acre parcel indicated his willingness to do an easement on the land with public access. This could provide access from Route 77 or from Windmill Lane. The Chair will meet with the landowner of Map 26 Lot 12 regarding an easement. This could provide a connection. The Planner will contact the Canterbury people.

8. Dyer Woods Cliff Ave Connector. Trail day went well, it was raining, the connector was created along the side of the fence around the trees. One neighbor came and helped.

9. Winnick Woods Shrublands Management. Approval of the plan is on the agenda for the Town Council meeting tomorrow (October 10). There will be representatives from Fish & Wildlife. This is the last piece of the Winnick Woods Master Plan.

10. Horseback riding on trails. Horses are clearly using the trail at Great Pond, including the Boy Scout bridge. The riders group offered to re-design the bridges, but nothing is currently being done. Public Works put gravel on the Gull Crest Fowler Road connector, bringing equipment over the boardwalk, which buckled. At Gull Crest, we may want to consider allowing only foot traffic on the outer loop trail.

Motion: To post “No Horses” signs on the Gull Crest trail from the Fowler Road connector east on the Outer Loop trail to the floating bridge.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To post “No Horses” signs on two bridges at Great Pond: Jewett Road bridge and bridge on trail leading to Great Pond boardwalk.

Passed unanimously

The horse group representatives will be invited to a meeting with the Commission.

11. Spurwink bridge. There is a need for professional painting. There is a hole in one of the boards.

12. Monthly trail walk. Tuesday, October 16 at 4:00. Meet at Gull Crest by the football field.

13. Trail of the month. Garvan Donegan will write a column about the Two Lights Trail and the Eagle Scout project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Next meeting: November 13, 2012