

Conservation Commission Minutes
November 13, 2012

Present: Garvan Donegan, Richard Bauman, Marti Blair, Zach Matzkin, John Planinsek, Mitch Wacksman

Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Dale and Dan Bryant, Lisa Moulton, Kelly Strout, Andy Strout

Meeting called to order 7:01 PM

1. Minutes of October 9, 2012 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Correspondence. A memo from Robin Mills re: horseback riding on trails was read and reviewed. An engineer drawn sketch of proposed repairs to the "Boy Scout" bridge was attached. Please see "horseback riding on trails" update below.
3. Trail Signs. Maureen provided sample specialty signs for trail heads, such as "no motorized vehicles", and she is producing in house. There was discussion concerning "you are here" signs for trails. Maureen will try to reduce font size of road signs, making the maps easier to read, and will be checking the new GPS mapping for trail location updates.
4. Two Lights Trails Eagle Scout Project. Mitch reported that NEMBA will send the Town money towards the trail project. Members of the Conservation Commission will arrange to be present during construction, and John Planinsek will coordinate efforts between the Scouts and the CC.
5. Town Farm Trail. One portion is done. Public Works plans to complete the work with the CC paying for materials.
6. Loveitt Woods. Maureen explained where the Bryant property is, and where a trail path might be optimal. The Bryants are not willing to allow a path/easement on one side of their property because they are concerned that it would be too close to their house. They are willing to consider a path on the side furthest from the house. They questioned possible increased parking in their area. Garvan explained that neighborhood trails do not typically result in increased parking. The Krigmans allow neighbors occasional access but are not willing to allow increased access. The Austins may allow access from their lot. Maureen will contact the Austins about a possible site walk and will contact the Bryants also. This area contains RP2 wetlands and may need to be surveyed before consideration of a boardwalk. Maureen will also research permit

requirements for this wetland area.

7. Canterbury On The Cape. Maureen will pursue a conversation with the President of the condominium association.

8. Horseback Riding On Trails: Kelly Strout is now representing the horseback trail riders and will be their contact person. It was noticed that there hasn't been much use of the Gull Crest horse trail. Kelly reported that the riders have avoided it due to ticks in the tall grass. Mowing of this trail would keep the tick population down. Alan Leathers has repaired the " Boy Scout" bridge, and according to Lisa Moulton, this bridge is safe for horses, although a curb would make it safer. Lisa reported that the trail riders could install curbing on that bridge.

The Great Pond bridge, however, is not safe for horses and Lisa has brought an engineer's draft of a proposed construction design. There was discussion about extending the ramp of this bridge, or using gravel there instead of a ramp. Also, it was suggested that eco-safe pressure treated wood should be substituted for railroad ties. A motion was passed, seconded and there was unanimous approval to authorize the riders to upgrade the Great Pond bridge as specified in their plan, with the substitution of railroad ties for 8X8 pressure treated timbers. Another motion was made, seconded and a vote was unanimous to authorize the trail riders to put a curb on the Boy Scout bridge.

The bridge near the Malley property, which does not have pylons, is unsafe for horses and also has no curbs. There was discussion that it would be too expensive to fortify for just a few riders. Also, because of the very long span of this bridge and soft wet ground underneath, an engineer may be needed to design a bridge that would safely support the weight of horses. Kelly Strout asked about the possibility of a fundraising event to raise money for a new bridge by the Malley property that would support the weight of horses. Maureen suggested that the Town Council would need to consider a fundraising plan for approval and for potential authorization.

9. Spurwink River Pedestrian Bridge. Garvan Donovan, John Marchewka, Zach Matzkin and Jessica Sullivan recently took a site walk to Gull Crest and the Spurwink River bridge. The consensus is that the metal surfaces on the bridge do not need painting; they are in fine shape and should last for many years as is.

10. Leighton Farms. There is concern that the Greenbelt trail may have been re- directed. Maureen will make a site visit.

11. Planning Board Review. There are no items for CC review.

12. Monthly Trail Walk. The next monthly trail walk will be at Canterbury, on November 28, 2012, at 3:45 PM. Meet at Columbus Road.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on December 11, 2012

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Sullivan