

Conservation Commission Minutes

December 11, 2012

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

Guests: A.J. DiNinno, Timothy DiNinno

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Minutes of November 13, 2012 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Two Lights Trail Eagle Scout project. Tim DiNinno has completed his project replacing 250 feet of boardwalks on the Two Lights Trail. He shared a slide show of the work. The project came in right on budget, approximately \$2300. The post for the Greenbelt sign still needs to be set. Approximately 500 hours were spent by 20 different volunteers. He was able to re-purpose a lot of the wood that was there. The quality of the work is excellent.

Motion: To submit a letter of commendation for Tim DiNinno.

Passed unanimously

Coming in from the Two Lights Road, with the pond in front of you, our easement is to the left, although there is a casual path to the right. Maureen will have a discussion with the property owner.

Steps were installed over a hummock that may need to be re-examined. A ramp would not work in that location.

3. Correspondence. The Director of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust reached out to us concerning increasing volunteer capacity for trail work. Maureen met with Chris Franklin. They have 60 people on a volunteer email list. The law firm of Pierce Atwood requires annual days of service by its employees, and has offered some volunteer time to CELT.

In addition to the Robinson Woods II easement, they also got the connector to Route 77, Canter Lane, so they have some work to be done. They are suggesting that we consider standardizing trail specifications. One of the things CELT has considered as a volunteer event is to sponsor a chainsaw safety event, because they restrict who is allowed to operate chainsaws on their property. Maintenance of their trails is a big undertaking.

The Land Trust is a private organization, and their Board meetings are held privately. The Conservation Commission is a public organization with different constraints. In Robinson Woods II, they will be re-routing trails, and will need a local resource protection permit. The permit will be referred to the Planning Board which will ask for input from the Commission. We have a public access easement over that property. It would be good for the Commission to have some input into their trail design.

We could start out small in cooperating with CELT by agreeing to share information with each other whenever we call a work day, and then each group could put out a call for volunteers.

We need to see the benefit for the town and the Conservation Commission in any cooperative agreement with the Land Trust.

The Commission has made huge progress in the last few years with trail improvements, access, and maintenance. We still have a lot of work to do on our trails.

In order to foster cooperation and common goals, perhaps we should schedule a joint meeting with the Commission and the Land Trust. This would be a logical time since we are working on updating the 2001 Greenbelt Plan.

4. Greenbelt Plan Update. There was discussion regarding whether to follow the same format as the 2001 Plan or whether to expand it to include our new responsibilities or whether to scrap it altogether and incorporate it into our Greenbelt and Open Space Management Plan. An option is to focus the plan on key areas for expansion of the system. The Future Open Space Preservation Plan also envisions acquisition of properties for other purposes beyond trails, including agriculture and habitat.

We want to emphasize interconnectivity. The old vision of a hub-and-spoke system has been more realistically interpreted as a spider web.

The FOSP proposal goes to a Council workshop on Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.. Maureen will send out the notice and some Commissioners may attend.

5. Loveitt Woods update. Maureen called the landowner of the Krigman parcel, who agreed to have a conversation. Mr. Gordon may be amenable to keeping the trail. Maureen and John are going to meet with him next week.

6. Canterbury on the Cape update. Maureen contacted a representative of the Canterbury association, and explained that we are interested in the land away from their property, and could potentially help them with the trespassing issue, by re-directing use.

7. Horseback riding on trails. The horseback riding group fixed the bridges on Great Pond. We installed No Horses on the access by the Malley's property.

8. Signs. We approved the new Greenbelt trail signs and requested that 50 be purchased. We have 440 Limit of Town Property signs. We have 475 Greenbelt signs with no arrows, 600 with right arrows, 575 with left arrows. We have 40 Pedestrian access only signs, no seal. We also have small numbers of some other miscellaneous signs.

9. Gull Crest trail. There is a short bridge between the parking area on Spurwink Road and the football field that has boards that are broken and more in bad shape. The telephone poles that were used for supports are fine, but the planks have rotted.

Motion: To buy seventeen 12 foot boards to repair the Gull Crest bridge.
Passed unanimously

10. Great Pond boat racks. It was a great season. Everyone who got a permit actually used it. There were three boats that were not where they were supposed to be, those were taken away by Public Works. All the permitted boats were removed on a timely basis. Maureen will send the

report to the Council. The easement language explicitly says 30 slots, and any change would require discussion with the Sprague Corporation.

11. Monthly trail walk. The next Saturday after the materials for repairing the Gull Crest trail bridge are obtained, the trail walk will be a work day.

12. Trail of the month. Maureen will draft an article about the Conservation Commission and our Greenbelt trails.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting: January 29, 2013.