

| Revised Conservation Commission Minutes

March 12, 2013

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

Guests: Sam Sherman, John Greene, Penny Jordan, Carol Anne Jordan, Frank Strout, Frank Miles, Tilly Kelly, Richard Chenevert

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of February 12, 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

2. Correspondence.

Town Council FOSP approval. Some items were referred to the Conservation Commission, but changes in the responsibilities of the Commission were referred to the Ordinance Committee.

A training workshop with the Planning Board is scheduled for April 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Discussion will include RP-1 and RP-2 wetlands and collaboration between Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

A joint meeting regarding Trout Brook will be scheduled with the South Portland Conservation Commission.

3. Trail improvements.

Sam Sherman would like to do some volunteer work for the Commission. There is a project to remove invasive barberry and paint the stumps in Sherwood Forest. Carol Haas is working on the project now and is willing to supervise the work.

Motion: To authorize continued removal of invasive species in Loveitt Woods under the supervision of Carol Haas.

Approved unanimously

Whaleback Trail bridge – waiting for the weather and conditions to improve. There are five 4 X 4's leftover from the last Boy Scout project that can be used.

Town Farm trail – waiting for improvement in weather conditions.

Cliff Ave. Connector

Motion: To authorize a small improvement to the trail.

Approved unanimously

Loveitt Woods – on hold until meeting with landowner can be held.

Winnick Woods Shrublands Management – the cutting to improve habitat has been discontinued due to thawing.

Snowmobile map – Signs have been installed on the Spurwink River bridge showing no motorized vehicles. There may be some confusion because the picture on the sign shows an ATV.

4. Public Comments. John Greene representing Cape Farm Alliance shared a “Micro Backyard Open Space Plan” which he can post on his Facebook page. He feels there is too much impact on private property.

In FOSP it states that any proposals should be discussed with landowners first.

Carol Anne Jordan, one of the owners of Jordan Farm on Wells Road, expressed her displeasure in seeing a trail going through her yard. She does not want people wandering through her property because they have farm equipment operating there and also parked. There is pressure from the government to keep contaminants out of farm fields, including those coming from animals.

Penny Jordan of Jordan Farm said that they thought long and hard before putting a conservation easement on their property. Just because there is an easement on the land does not mean people can walk there. Some people come through there on their dirt bikes uninvited. A few years ago, she refused to give Cape Elizabeth Land Trust permission to walk the land and look for connectors. She would like to have the map removed from the website.

Frank Strout, ~~Cape Elizabeth Land Trust~~Cape Farm Alliance. He is concerned about this being looked at as a public document, since this has been an issue with the public before. He supports trails in Cape.

Frank Miles, Cape Farm Alliance and founder of Maine Farmland Trust. They have their eye on all sorts of properties, but do not make that interest public without talking to landowners first. Vegetable farmers may have issues with e coli bacteria and because of their certification have increased regulation. Dogs are a particular issue.

Tilly Kelly, Sprague Corporation. It would have been better to have been approached by the Commission rather than seeing the map on the website.

Garvan Donegan thanked the public for their comments and stated that the Commission is very supportive of farms in Cape Elizabeth. He reiterated the goals of the Commission regarding trails and accessibility. This early draft map is a continuation of the Greenbelt planning commenced many years ago.

5. Review Potential Greenbelt Plan Trails. The Town Planner explained the requirement of the Town Council that all elements of a meeting packet be posted on the website in interests of transparency, which is why the map appeared.

The Commissioners thanked the public for their comments. They stressed that this map is conceptual, it is a preliminary draft of a Greenbelt plan for the next 10 years. Greenbelt plans since 1977 have included proposed trails.

There was discussion regarding the next steps for developing the Greenbelt plan. The narrative is informative and may be adequate without the need for the map. The narrative talks about the general route which may be enough, although more visually-oriented Commissioners expressed need for the map.

A similar map was developed for the former Greenbelt Plan and it is not promoted; the town does promote the trails map, not these conceptual Greenbelt maps.

Trail #1 would connect Dyer Woods to Loveitt Woods an approximate distance of 2800 feet, through a mix of wet and wooded areas.

Trail #2 would connect Dyer Woods to Cottage Brook an approximate distance of 2800 feet, including Sawyer Marsh and Trout Brook. We will consider whether there is any opportunity to coordinate this effort with South Portland.

Trail #3 follows the paper street off Wedgewood and goes in to Canterbury on the Cape open land and connects to the town's existing pedestrian easement.

Trail #4 includes land that we will own but do not own yet. It begins on land we currently own in Cottage Brook subdivision and links in to Canterbury on the Cape pedestrian easement.

Trail #5 also appeared on the 2001 Plan. The trail starts at Plaisted Park and connects in to Loveitt Woods.

Trail #6 runs from the Canterbury on the Cape easement, the corner of Hobstone, out to Route 77, very wet, about 1400 linear feet.

Trail #7 extends from Spurwink to Sawyer Road along farm roads in Maxwell Farm. It is posted no dogs. This trail will be dropped.

Trail #8 connects from Spurwink into Winnick Woods.

Trail #9 connects from Spurwink to Cross Hill.

Trail #10 could be a seasonal trail in the winter linking across 77 from the Bothel easement along Route 77 and connect to the easement at Wildwood.

Trail #10 A would connect Wildwood easement to Lion's Field.

Trail #11 connects the southern end of Robinson Woods II trail out to Route 77.

Trail #13 connects across from Leighton Farm across Wells Road to the Spurwink Marsh. The permitting would be very difficult.

Trail #16 starts at Charles Jordan Road and runs along the Spurwink River. John Greene commented that it is unlikely to ever happen.

Trail #17 was on the 1988 Greenbelt plan. It runs from Route 77 to Little Pond. John Greene expressed that this is “disconcerting” to the Sprague Corporation, because they have cooperated with the town on other projects. They are a private entity and see being that way into the future. They currently get many trespassers on their property.

Penny Jordan stated that their farm is a place of business, not open space. The more people who walk on it impacts the viability of the farm as a place of business. There are pipes that run down roads, there is farm equipment stored, the pond is for the business. People on the property may do harm. If people ask to bike on the property, 90% of the time they are given permission.

The commission agreed to remove this trail.

Trail #19 would loop around the west and south side of Great Pond. It is very wet. The trail would wrap around and connect with the existing Great Pond Trail. This trail will be dropped.

Trail #20 would connect the southern Great Pond trail to Crescent Beach. This trail will be dropped.

Trail #21 was in the last Greenbelt plan in a slightly different form. It would connect Old Ocean House to Route 77 to Great Pond.

Trail #22 connects Whaleback to Great Pond.

Trail #23 connects Route 77 to Alewife Cove.

Trail #12 is open space with trails currently only for the use of the Brentwood Association. It connects from Lions Field to Brentwood cul-de-sacs.

Richard Chenevert spoke in favor of trails that link together and eliminate the need to walk on major roads.

Trail #14 connects Sawyer Road through Elizabeth Farms to the marsh.

Trail #15 runs from Town Farm via Spurwink and along the Riverside Cemetery to the Spurwink River.

Trail #18 links from Gull Crest south to Runaway Farms and then to Great Pond.

Trail #24 links the end of Avon Road to Turkey Hill.

Trail #25 links Shore Acres to Broad Cove.

Trail #26 runs along the paper street known as Surfside Ave.

Trail #27 connects along a drainage easement from Broad Cove to the beach.

Trail #28 connects Broad Cove Road to Turkey Hill.

Trail #29 links Hannaford Cove Road to Two Lights.

6. Robinson Woods II Resource Protection Permit. The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is going before the Planning Board next Tuesday with their plan for trail in Robinson Woods II.

Motion: To advise the Planning Board that the Robinson Woods II Trail plan is complete.

Approved unanimously

7. Trail walk Thursday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m. Trail #26, meet at Trundy Point.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 9, 2013