

Conservation Commission Minutes

April 23, 2013

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

Guest: Jessica Sullivan, Town Councilor and former Conservation Commission Liaison

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

1. Citizen Comments.

Imad Khalidi, wanted to clarify his English from last meeting: "If my close neighbors want to come and walk on my lawn, that is fine with me."

David Leopold submitted some photographs from his property at 25 Pilot Point Road showing conditions on the rear of his property in October 2012.

Minutes of April 9, 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved, including the list of emails received.

2. Correspondence. Letter from D. Hitchcox re: Greenbelt Plan.

3. Discussion of the format for the Public Forums. It was suggested that we consider an interactive forum where citizens could give input on where they would like to see trails, using big maps. The Planner said that we would have that capacity in-house and could have markers for people to use to show what trails they use and what trails they would like to see. This could be an opportunity for community involvement.

Citizens could also be asked for input on priorities of suggested trails. Having a map with numbers makes it easier for people to share. Telephone surveys have been used by FOSP and Comprehensive Plan committees.

4. Discussion of Greenbelt Trails map. The Planner presented options for showing potential trails on a map. Marking the proposed trails with little purple x's gives good indication that these are only potential trails. Removing property lines also helps it be more abstract. The Planner will also try to add a watermark saying "Draft" across the face of the map. Two maps will be prepared, one for north Cape and south Cape.

5. Review of proposed trails.

#1 connects Dyer Woods through Holan lots and Baker lot south to Abaco Road lot and through pedestrian easement across Oakhurst to Loveitt Woods.

#2 extends from the same starting point on the south side of Dyer Woods, goes to Mitchell Road and across Sawyer Marsh and links up with Cottage Brook subdivision town lands, some of which will become town lands once the development is built out. This trail may require boardwalking, depending on siting.

#3 runs from Mitchell Road along the Wedgewood Road paper street, through open space privately owned by Canterbury on the Cape. It would connect to the easement the town already owns, which the Commission is working on, which leads to Hobstone. This easement will be shown in dashed red to indicate a pending trail.

#4 starts from the corner of Cottage Brook subdivision through town open space into an easement behind McAuley Road and subdivision, and extends out to Spurwink Avenue.

#5 leads from the main entrance of Fort Williams through Plaisted Park to Loveitt Woods.

The Shore Road pathway will be added as a Greenbelt Trail.

#6 starts at the southern end of the Canterbury on the Cape easement at the corner of Hobstone Woods, goes across town property at the Bothel easement to Route 77.

#8 goes from Spurwink Ave. across from the Purpoodock golf club to the Cross Hill/Winnick Woods open space.

A red dashed line showing the easement from Eastman Meadows to Winnick will be added.

#9 runs from Spurwink Ave. through the land with the telecommunications towers area and connect to Leighton Farms/Cross Hill open space. The siting of the trail will be changed to provide a straighter connection. This trail may be an alternative to #8, and the wording of the two trail descriptions can indicate that.

#8 and #9 will become 8A and 8B.

#10 connects from #6 on the west side of 77, runs along the road and connects with the Wildwood easement (red dashed line) to Lions Field.

#11 runs from the end of the new Robinson Woods II trail to Town Center. The Land Trust is in discussion with the property owner.

#12 takes advantage of existing open space connection in the Brentwood neighborhood and goes along Russett Lane to Scott Dyer Road.

#14 runs from western end of Cross Hill to connect with the Spurwink Marsh and Spurwink River.

#15 addresses the failed bridge across Pollock Creek, then goes along the edge of the Spurwink Cemetery, and down to the Spurwink River across from the boat launch. We will connect directly across from the Runaway Farms trail entrance.

#16 addresses the goal of increased access to water bodies and goes along Charles Jordan Road to a trail along the Spurwink River across from #15. It was stated that a property owner who owned property adjacent to a river would not want a trail between the property and a major enhancement of that property, so this trail may not have any possibility of succeeding. It was said that a trail located in that large open green space would be a major asset, even if it did not go along the river. It was also mentioned that even a short piece of trail providing access to the river at that point would be valuable. Objection has been expressed to the Commission that having a line on a map showing a potential trail would increase trespassing.

#18 connects from Runaway Farms to Gullcrest and also Susan Road.

#19 runs along a small strip of land behind Pilot Point Road and then up to the paper street to Avon Road and connects to Turkey Hill Farm (was #24).

#20 runs along a pedestrian easement from High View Road to Trundy Road. It would provide a connection for the Eastfield Road neighborhood.

#21 uses open space from Old Ocean House Road to Ocean House Road, goes behind Hampton Road neighborhood to Great Pond trail.

#22 connects the edge of Great Pond across Route 77 through the existing open land at Whaleback Ridge and joins #23 through the existing piece the town got from the Portland Water District and across along Alewife Brook to Alewife Cove.

#25 connects from Broad Cove via Ledgewood Lane.

#26 runs along the paper street at Surfside Ave. The upper end of Surfside is a private road.

#27 is a small connector at the end of Channel View to the ocean. The Planner will check out the status of this property.

#28 connects from Broad Cove Road to Turkey Hill Farm. It was asked whether there is a paper street at the end of Spoondrift Lane.

#29 goes from the public end of Hannaford Cove Road along perhaps Cunner Lane across Coast Guard land to Two Lights Road. The trail route will be changed to the end of Sunrise Drive

#30 connects from #29 through Jordan Farms Road lot to Highland Trails.

6. Draft Public Forum agenda. The Commission reviewed the draft agenda for the public forums and decided to add a section on accomplishments since the last Greenbelt Plan.

7. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Next meeting: May 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., beginning with a meeting with the Cape Elizabeth Farm Alliance.