

Conservation Commission Minutes
August 13, 2013

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

Guests: Noted below

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. The Chair discussed conservation and leadership in Cape Elizabeth. It is gratifying to see the large group of citizens who come to our meetings. He cited conservation leaders in Cape Elizabeth who had great impact on our community. The Commission displays, and will continue to display, the following qualities: visible, personally involved, optimistic, seeking input, fair, minimize status differences, respect private property rights, work to build consensus, focused, adaptable. The Chair does not support trails on farms. The Commission is an ally of farmers in Cape Elizabeth.

2. Public Comments, limited to 15 minutes total.

Penelope Jordan, an owner of Jordan Farm. It is ironic that we are in a conference room named after a person who is a leader in this community. To have to attend seven or eight meetings is a burden. Her father would say this is not 1970 or 1980, there is a lack of respect for property owner rights. She would like to see trails 8A and 8B removed from the conceptual map. The table in the Greenbelt Plan now says wooded. The property owner spoke to the Commission and objected to the trail.

Kelly Gordon, Hannaford Cove Road. She has young children, there are 10 children under the age of ten on that road, she is concerned about safety. She is opposed to Trail #29, which will attract people to come to a lighthouse. There is commercial traffic and it will be difficult to distinguish between private and commercial users. Parking is also a concern.

Martha Duncan, Two Lights Road. She brought pictures from Sunday night, showing people parked illegally. There were cars on line up to Two Lights Terrace, there was no way a rescue vehicle could get down there. There is already an issue with parking.

Nyssa Kourakos, 15 Two Lights Road. The traffic there is already frightening, adding to that would increase the parking and safety problems. Thousands of people go to The Lobster Shack. Trail #29 is not in keeping with the rest of the Greenbelt.

Kate Sprague Gilbain, 226 Bowery Beach Road. She recommends distinguishing between the potential trail map, which should be used for planning, and the Greenbelt Trail Map, which should show only current trails open to the public. Combining the two causes confusion. Her family runs the Spurwink Farm, with 40 horses, and women who drive carriages. Trail #16 goes through Spurwink Farm, it is used by them with carriages. She has observed that people do strange things around horses.

Tom Egan, 41 Hannaford Cove Road. He is also principal and manager of Appletree Cottage LLC, a little cottage on an open field. He maintains Captain Elliot Road and Sunrise Drive. He takes pride in maintaining Hannaford Cove Road for neighborhood walkers. He bought the two roads in June, so that they could be preserved. He does not want people from away streaming in from the Lobster Shack.

Hilda Khalidi, 19 Pilot Point Road. She has been to several meetings, and encourages the Commission to vote tonight on trails.

2. Minutes of July 9, 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Revised minutes of May 14, 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
Revised minutes of March 12, 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence.

Letter from the Knapps regarding Trail #29, which they oppose.
Letter and petition from J. Breau regarding Trail #26.

4. Greenbelt Plan Trails.

Trail #1; 5-0. A Commissioner stressed that we are voting on the idea of making a connection or potentially siting a trail in a location, not on a specific trail placement.

Trail #2; A lot of this marsh is in the City of South Portland, and their Commission is starting to consider a boardwalk there.

Motion: To extend Trail #2 across the town-owned land called Ferne Peddy Lots.
Passed unanimously.

Trail #2 as amended; 5-0

Trail #3; 5-0

Trail #4; 5-0

Trail #5; 5-0

Trail #6; 5-0

Trail #8b; 0-5

Trail #8a; 3-2

Trail #10; 2-3

Trail #10a; 5-0

Trail #11; 5-0

Trail #12; 5-0

Trail #14; 4-1

Trail #15; 5-0

Trail #16; 0-5

Trail #18; 5-0

Trail #20; 4-1

Trail #21; 5-0 Add the word “private” and connect to the Greenbelt.

Trail #22; 3-2

Trail #23; 5-0

Trail #24; 4-1

Trail #25; 5-0

Trail #26; 3-2

Carmen Chatmas, Pilot Point Road, commented that the trail goes nowhere.

Trail #27; 5-0

Trail #28; 4-1

Trail #29; 0-5

Trail #30; 2-3

5. Greenbelt Plan narrative.

Page 6: Line 12 – Strike the word “five”

Line 20 – Insert “the conservation of” in front of Robinson Woods II

Line 16 – Change 8.5 to 9

Page 9: Try to ensure that the Great Pond map goes with the Great Pond description

Page 10: Line 12 – Change “most” to “many”

Page 12: Lines 2-6 - Incorporate the Ordinance by reference
Line 35: Make snowmobiles one word

Page 14: Add #10 regarding variety of uses and users, including open space.
Line 31: Strike the word trail
Line 49: Change “its” to “their”

Page 16: Lines 13 and 14 – Put quotation marks around “walking school bus” and “nature literacy”
Line 27: Insert the word “often”

Page 17: Lines 26-31 need to be re-worked

There was discussion as to whether to establish top priorities. For the next meeting, Commissioners are asked to prepare a list of 10 priorities in order.

6. Trout Brook update. The Committee is still active, the letter of intent for the remediation grant was denied.
7. Meeting with Riverside Cemetery Trustees is Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m. in Jordan Conference Room.
8. Trail walk: Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 at Ferne Peddy lots on Spurwink Ave.
9. Trail maintenance. The seasonal employee has done a lot of trail clearing in the last few weeks. He needed some boards and the Planner gave him permission to purchase them. The Commission purchased a portion of a heavy duty vegetation trimmer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Next meeting: September 10, 2013