

Conservation Commission Minutes
December 10, 2013

Present: Garvan Donegan, Zach Matzkin, Richard Bauman, Mitch Wacksman, Jim Tasse, Marti Blair, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara, Town Council Liaison Molly MacAuslan

Guest: Nick Bozek

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

1. Welcome and Introductions to new Town Council Liaison MacAuslan.
2. The minutes of October 8 were approved unanimously.
3. Report on Eagle Scout project. Nick Bozek, Eagle Scout candidate, shared samples of the 80 signs with maps he posted on Greenbelt Trails. There is one sign-box in Winnick Woods, which he repaired and posted a sign. He installed 4x4 posts at Gull Crest, which were donated by Rufus Deering. The signs are waterproof but if they need to be replaced, they are available on-line, along with the reference points which he created.
4. Stonegate Trail project – Eagle Scout candidate Nick Piscopo has been working with John Planinsek on a boardwalk bridge project. We spent \$2100 on materials. This particular project has been rather disorganized, not many Scouts came out to help.
5. Winnick Woods – The boardwalk at the entrance to Winnick Woods from Sawyer Road is deteriorating. About 15 people came to the October 19 trail work day to build the new trail near Eastman Meadows, sponsored by NEMBA. There is one section still to be completed.
6. Dyer Woods – Two yards of gravel were delivered and are ready to be spread. There is a concern that the gravel will be damaged by plowing, so it will be moved out of the way by Public Works. The trail location signed by the Eagle Scout is incorrect because the trail was re-routed. There is a fallen tree above the trail off Red Oak Drive, beyond the ballfield. A signpost was removed, apparently by a neighbor.
7. Trout Brook grant update – The Trout Brook watershed project has been spearheaded by the City of South Portland. A 319 grant application was filed to deal with agricultural runoff from the horse farm and the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Money from the horse farm was used for the match. The Town of Cape Elizabeth created a Community Fee Utilization Program that allowed a developer to pay a fee, \$22,000 of which was added to the \$180,000 grant application. The grant was funded. Water will be collected off the roof of the horse barn, and a manure pad will be built. A construction project will be undertaken along the edge of the brook. Water will also be collected off the roof of the church and diverted from the brook.
8. Great Pond trail – A four-wheeler has been coming in to this trail and damaging it, as well as going over the bridge, and doing a donut at the boat rack. The “No Motorized Vehicles” sign is not working. The access they are using is at the end of Jewett Road. The Planner will contact

the Police Department and ask them to follow up on this issue. The stairs are a major problem, they are deteriorating.

9. Great Pond Boat Rack report. Demand for the boat rack permits has continued to grow. There was a problem with a stolen boat. Three boats were left on the rack after the December 1st deadline, but they have now been removed. John Greene indicated that the Sprague Corporation might consider allowing more racks. The deadline for applications for the 2014 season will be mid-March.

Motion: To submit the Great Pond Boat Rack Report to the Town Council.
Passed Unanimously

10. Invasive plants program. Carol Haas was given permission to remove invasive bittersweet from the trees at the Town Farm. The Commission might want to develop a program to address invasives on town properties. We could possibly ask our Public Works employee to target one area per year to remove invasives. This item will be addressed as part of the discussion of trail maintenance priorities.

11. Trail signage. It was suggested that we differentiate trails within areas, perhaps by color. Intersections could be designated by number. It would be possible to take our Master Trails map and distinguish trails by color, rather than all red. We could purchase plastic trail blazes in various colors, they are very reasonably priced.

12. Trail of the month article - new Winnick Woods trail. Also an article will be written regarding the Trout Brook grant.

13. Greenbelt Plan. The Town has retained Derwood Parkinson as an attorney regarding paper streets. At the Public Hearing on December 9, support was expressed for the adoption of a Greenbelt Plan. On January 6, a vote may be taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Next meeting: January 14, 2013