

Conservation Commission Minutes
March 11, 2014

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. The minutes of February 11, 2014 were approved unanimously.
2. Citizen Comments. None.
3. Trail signage. There are 2 types of trails and signage we may want to consider: long distance crosstown; and local within a property. Possibly a small additional designation like CT for crosstown trail could be included. Longer routes are especially valuable for bicyclists.

Intersections could be numbered and referenced to a map. At Winnick Woods, for instance, the loop trail is very popular, and it would be useful for that trail to be signed in one color. A possibility is to make the main trail in each area the same color, like red, so a user would always know that the red trail was the main trail.

Possibilities for long trails include the Crosstown Trail, the Great Pond area, and the southern area. Each long trail could have a designated color. In each area that includes part of that long trail, the long trail section would be the designated color, and the side trails would be different colors. There was discussion about whether to stick with providing signs within parcels to help with directions or whether to lay out the possibilities for longer trails.

One of the Commissioners will look into the possibility of creating a vector file of the Greenbelt sign with town logo.

It was decided to continue to use the metal Greenbelt signs on the trails, and add plastic color markers for trail segments. Trail intersections would be numbered. Numbered intersections within the area would also be designated with a letter, like W for Winnick. Individual trails would be marked by color. When colored trails overlap, they would be marked with both colors. The Commission sketched out a draft of this signage system in the Winnick Woods and Cross Hill area. In addition to the metal and plastic color signs, there may also be "You are here" maps at intersections. There should be consistency within the different types of maps.

For the future, we could consider adding a QR code to the maps that people could read with their smartphone.

It was suggested that on the maps given out by the town, the trails also have a name like "Winnick Woods Loop Trail."

4. Spring temporary trail closure process. When it comes time to post trails as closed for bikes and horses, we will put up signs at the trailhead and post a notice on the town website. An email

will be sent out to a distribution list of bicycling organizations. Individuals can also be placed on the email list.

Motion: To designate Spring trail closures, any Commissioner can make a recommendation to the Chair, who is designated to contact the Town Planner to close the trail.

Passed unanimously

The Planner will prepare appropriate signs. The Planner will notify the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust. The Planner will send out a press release.

5. Snowmobiles on trails. Signs were posted on the Spurwink marsh bridge, but snowmobiles are still going there. The Planner will reach out to potential snowmobilers in the area.

6. Cape Courier article. The Planner will write an article for the Courier describing our spring trail closure policy and procedures.

7. Planning Board review. The Planner discussed proposed development of the four acre lot next door to Town Hall which could include a one acre village green. The Town Center planning committee has seen a proposal and is considering a possible ordinance amendment.

8. Cliff Avenue access to Dyer Woods. There is a large snowbank impeding access to this trailhead, which has been put there by the private landowner. Next season we need to ask them to pile the snow away from the access point. The Planner will work with the Public Works Director to open it up now and make a plan for the future.

9. Great Pond stone steps. Jamie Parker of Portland Trails is willing to work on this project. He will need to get out there to see the site, once the snow and ice melt.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: April 8, 2014