

Conservation Commission Minutes
September 9, 2014

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

Guest: Chris Franklin, Executive Director Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

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

1. The minutes of August 12, 2014 were approved unanimously.
2. Chris Franklin, Executive Director - Cape Elizabeth Land Trust updates

CELT had a game camera that revealed some ATV-ers were riding on restricted land at Great Pond. They corresponded with all abutters and reminded them that ATV's are not permitted. They are willing to lend the camera to the Commission if needed. He cautioned that it is not legal to tape audio.

Dyer-Hutchinson parking lot is closed. Trash was being dumped there and potentially illegal activities were being conducted there. A cooling off time is in place.

Alewives trail easement at Great Pond from the boat racks to the bridge. CELT updated their baseline documentation on all easements, as part of their accreditation process. He will prepare baseline documentation on the Alewives trail easement, for which the Town is an underlying owner.

CELT has been talking with Scarborough about joining together in a grant to fund a land steward. The Commission is invited to participate. In order to be added to a grant, the Commission would need Town Council permission.

3. Robinson Wood II trails construction – Chris Franklin

The proposed trail stays on an existing trail which will be cut to obtain appropriate clearance. A bog bridge is proposed for the water crossing. The plan is to carry the pieces of the bridge in and construct it themselves. Connectors to the bridge at both ends need to be worked on. The remainder of the new trail that goes along the edge of the "panhandle" and out to Canter Lane has been cleared. At Canter Lane there is a small RP2 area where there will be some bog bridges.

CELT has had 20 people respond with interest in helping with trail construction. The Great Maine Outdoors weekend on September 27 and 28 is being considered. The Commission is being asked to lead one of the project components and to recruit volunteers.

Dogs need to be on leash at the Canter end of the trail. The existing trail at Canter will be closed out.

There was discussion of whether we should coordinate on marking the cross town trail separately. There was discussion of a coordinated sign for trails shared by the Commission and the Land Trust.

Motion: To add Robinson Woods to the Greenbelt trail system. Signage will be coordinated with the Land Trust.

Passed unanimously

The Planner asked Mr. Franklin about the status of a possible agreement, perhaps in the form of a letter, with the Methodist church, granting permission to use the trail on their property, and show it on a map. A licensing agreement would also be a possibility.

4. Great Pond steps. The Land Trust will need to give the Commission permission to re-build these steps. Chris Franklin will speak to the CELT board. The RFP was completed.

5. Winnick/Cross Hill to Eastman connections. Permits will be needed because wetlands might be involved, definitely a local permit and possibly a state permit. The state permit would cost approximately \$3000 to \$5000.

Motion: To dedicate \$1000 to initiate a process to determine whether a permit will be required to create a lower connection between Winnicks and Eastman trail areas.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To create an upland connection between the Winnicks and Eastman trails.

Passed unanimously

6. Town center trail, Vinnie's trail. A site visit will be held with the Public Works Director on September 25 or 26 at 9:00 a.m.

7. Trail maintenance. Chris Thompson, the former Eagle Scout who built the bridge at Gullcrest, runs his own landscaping business and has been maintaining the trails. It was requested that he move gravel at Woodland Road.

8. Boardwalk at Gullcrest. An extension of the outer loop boardwalk to widen it by one board was proposed. The boardwalk should also be extended across the middle, between the two sections. The Planner will develop an estimate.

9. Trail of the month article. The Planner wrote a nice article on Cross Hill for the Cape Courier.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next meeting: October 14, 2014