

Conservation Commission Minutes  
November 10, 2014

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

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

1. The minutes of October 14, 2014 were approved unanimously.
2. Planning Board review: Rudy's Restaurant is requesting an amendment to the Resource Protection Permit to add a generator.

Motion: To approve the modification to the Resource Protection Permit for Rudy's Restaurant.

Passed 5-1

3. Conservation Commission Capital Improvement Program budget request. This would be a one-time infusion of cash to deal with big items. We could put in a request for Greenbelt Trail improvements/infrastructure and then allocate the money to appropriate projects.

There was discussion of the use to which funds for major improvements would be put, as well as discussion of the differences between capital projects and capital maintenance. An issue is that the more infrastructure is built, the more maintenance will be needed in the future.

Next month we will review a revised proposal, and consider making a recommendation to the Council.

4. Gull Crest boardwalk. A tree came down and damaged one of the sections of the boardwalk. A new 4x10 section with two brackets has been ordered. The Tree Warden and Public Works have removed the tree. The boardwalk will be installed by Public Works and permission has been given by a neighbor to deliver the boardwalk to their property.

Motion: To expend slightly over \$1000 to fix the Gull Crest boardwalk.

Passed unanimously

5. Great Pond trail. 4 wheelers have been going in to the boat racks area. Signs will be installed there. Regarding the steps replacement, we need to receive permission from the Land Trust and also request cost sharing of the \$20,000 estimated cost.
6. Signage. CELT would like to share signage for the cross-town trail. The Winnicks Woods trail signs and maps need to be completed. Some gaps in the yellow trail signs at Winnicks need to be filled.
7. Winnicks Woods. On Thursday, November 13 at 8:30 a.m., the Planner and a Commissioner will meet with Stephen Harding to discuss the permit process for a potential boardwalk.

8. Town Center Trail/Vinnie's Trail. We would like to create two access points from Starboard Drive and Vinnie's Trail to the Town Center Trail, and to the bridge over the marsh, and make it more accessible to other-abled users. We could potentially apply for RTP funds for trail improvements. The Planner will ask the Public Works Director if it would be permissible to upgrade the trail to the level of the Cliff Walk at Fort Williams, since the trail is over a sewer easement.

9. Gull Crest Outer Loop boardwalk extension/expansion. The Commission is considering adding one plank to the width and 400 extra feet of length to the Gull Crest boardwalk, at a proposed cost of \$8300. There was discussion as to the importance of this project in relation to our other priorities. This project will be put on hold for now due to budgetary concerns.

10. Open Space Management. The Commission needs to consider its responsibilities in this regard in the new year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting: December 9, 2014