

Conservation Commission Minutes  
January 13, 2015

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Zach Matzkin, Garvan Donegan, Jim Tasse, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Marti Blair, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

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

1. The minutes of December 9, 2014 were approved unanimously.
2. Election of Officers: Mitch Wacksman was re-elected Chair and Marti Blair was re-elected Secretary unanimously.
3. Winnick Woods new trail costs. The cost match with NEMBA was clarified.

Motion: To submit an application for a permit to DEP for a new bridge at Winnick Woods, with the cost of \$1100 to be borne by the Commission in the amount of \$550 and by NEMBA in the amount of \$550. Costs of future construction may be authorized and shared between the Commission and NEMBA.

Passed unanimously

4. New members and rules. Two new Commissioners were introduced. The Planner reviewed the Right to Know law and confidentiality. Possibilities for future training were discussed, including sharing training with the Planning Board.
5. Signage. The Planner reviewed the current signs utilized by the Commission for town trails. The Commission needs to decide how to provide the most helpful but easy-to-maintain combination of Greenbelt signs, colored diamond trail markers, and maps. Specifically we need to determine four items: Numbered intersections; Color-coordinated maps; You are here sign/maps; Cross-town trail; Confusion between Commission and CELT trails.

Winnick Woods and Cross Hill were the pilot project trails for the colored diamond trail markers. The pilot project should be finished and evaluated for success. The Planner will prepare a map, including numbered intersections. There was discussion of how to sign private land through which the trail passes, only with landowner permission.

An issue with the Cross-town trail is that it is difficult to mark the long route because it crosses town-owned land, CELT land, state park, etc. There was discussion of creating a separate small sticker that could be affixed to the particular organization's sign, or a stand-alone cross-town trail sign.

The Planner was asked to procure a design of a sticker and prepare a map with a proposed route for the Cross-town trail, for the next meeting.

Motion: To authorize the Planner to expend up to \$200 for the design of a small round logo for a Cross-town trail.

Passed unanimously

6. Boat rack report. There are 32 slots and we receive 80+ applications. Four slots are set aside for kayaks. More people this past year did not use their slot, even though they had paid for it. Perhaps we should add a requirement that the slot be utilized by a certain date.

Another question is whether we should consider adding more slots. This year John Greene of the Sprague Corporation asked that one slot be set aside for them. He indicated willingness to add another boat rack. Enforcement is going very well.

Motion: To ask the Sprague Corporation for permission to build an additional 16-slot boat rack at Great Pond.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To add language to the boat rack permit requiring that the holder have a boat on the rack by July 15.

Passed 5-2

It was mentioned that the boards on the ramp leading to the Great Pond boardwalk flex excessively, there needs to be a better foundation.

7. Encroachments. The new fence was installed at Leighton Farms. In the spring, Public Works will be requested to remove the forsythia bushes. A letter was sent to the landowners at 27 Jewett Road.

8. Two Lights Road trespassing. The manager received a letter from the Poulins, who live between the two access points to the Two Lights Trail. People are parking in their driveway and walking through their yard. The Planner and a Commissioner will meet with the Poulins to discuss the issue.

9. Robinson Woods easements. The Conservation Commission has been designated as the Town's representative to the annual meeting with CELT regarding the easements on Robinson Woods I and II, held in December. There has been controversy regarding dogs on the property. The Commission is not taking a position on this issue. The Open Space Management Plan for town-owned property allows dogs off-leash but under voice control, and requires clean-up of waste near the trail.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting: February 10, 2015