

Conservation Commission Minutes  
March 10, 2015

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

Guests: Sheila Wellehan, Theresa Fox, Suzanne McGinn, Melissa Skinner, Jennifer Steel

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Citizen comments. Sheila Wellehan spoke in support of installing dog poop stations at public land around town. Theresa Fox has helped Public Works with the station at Fort Williams, where they found a second station became necessary. She supports signage.
2. The minutes of February 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.
3. Signage for Crosstown trail. The Planner obtained quotes. Quality Name Plate, Inc. provides other signs for us, their quote was \$1.03 per sign and \$55 for the art. They cover the metal sign with vinyl coating and embed the art in that vinyl. Metal Marker Manufacturing quoted \$2.15 per sign. She posted a job at Maine College of Art offering \$250 for the design of a logo for the Crosstown trail, and received interest from two students. The logo would be painted on the road and also would appear on the trail markers. The Commission reviewed the websites of the two students and chose to work with Nicole Holmes.

Suzanne McGinn of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust reported back on CELT's review of proposed changes to the route of the Crosstown Trail. CELT approved of the first change, and will review the second one when the trails are drier. They are in favor of a new logo and signage. She asked about the addition of a QR code, installing these on signs at a limited number of major points was discussed.

4. Signage at Winnick Woods. The Planner shared the new intersection signs, which look great. They show contours and ownership is colored. She also shared a draft of a larger map for the kiosk.

Notes to include on the large map:

- Red trails do not have colored blazes, although they do have Greenbelt signs.
- Distances.

The Commission will meet at the Winnick Woods kiosk on Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. to install signs.

5. Signage regarding dogs. We received suggestions from the public on potential dog waste cleanup signs, and the Planner mocked up some possibilities. The Planner walked the Winnick Woods yellow-white loop trail on Monday morning and counted the incidences of pet waste. On Tuesday she walked the Gull Crest trail and counted incidences there. The two were very similar in terms of numbers per acre. She found that the greatest instances are near the trailhead, and

that about half the owners were carrying bags. At Gull Crest there is a pet waste station near the parking lot, and the Public Works Director said it is emptied weekly. There are no signs at Gull Crest.

The Planner suggests that we consider waste stations, signs, and a public education campaign.

Melissa Skinner, from South Portland, uses Winnick frequently. She suggested signage in sensitive areas, because people are not aware of the incidence of areas like vernal pools.

Jennifer Steel, from South Portland, said that she is hauling off a great deal of waste and disposing of it at home. She suggested that someone be present at peak periods to remind people.

Sheila Wellehan suggested that a trash can would be helpful.

Suzanne McGinn stated that CELT is going through the same concerns. It might be valuable for CELT and the Commission to work together on a public education plan. The dog waste is still present at Robinson Woods, and compliance is not happening.

Theresa Fox stated that a Gull Crest clean-up is scheduled for April 11. Bob Malley's crew has done a great job shoveling out the cans.

Sheila Wellahan mentioned that abutting neighbors allow their dogs to run loose on the public properties adjacent to them.

The Commission decided to install signs at the kiosk entrance to Winnick Woods.

Melissa Skinner stressed that people don't understand that dog waste is an environmental problem, not just unsightly.

Suzanne McGinn stated that the EPA considers dog waste to be toxic waste, and their website has a lot of good information.

Theresa Fox volunteered to help hang signs.

The Planner will write an article for the Cape Courier.

At the next meeting, the Commission will consider a dog waste station and bags, for Winnick Woods.

6. Winnick Woods connector trail. The state permit-by-rule was granted. Now we need to prepare a request for a local permit to the Planning Board. Jim Tasse did an excellent job presenting our proposal to the Planning Board workshop. The Planner will prepare the application and submit it to the Planning Board, for review at their April 27 meeting. The request will be made for up to five feet wide, with sleepers and decking. If the town permit is granted, it is good for a year.

7. Boat rack expansion status. John Greene is supportive of the request. This year's boat rack applications are lower.

8. Easement registry. Every year, the State of Maine requires us to go online and report whether we have monitored our easements. There was discussion of dates to be reported for the 8 easements.

9. FY 2016 town budget. This will be presented to the Town Council budget workshop on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners are urged to be present.

10. Trail walk. Winnick Woods kiosk on Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. to install signs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: April 14, 2015