

Conservation Commission Minutes
April 14, 2015

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

Guests: A.J. DiNinno, Mark Dorval, Suzanne McGinn

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. The minutes of March 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.
2. Boy Scout Camporee Event Request, October 23-25, Gull Crest. A.J. DiNinno presented Casco Bay District Boy Scout Troop 30's request for a camporee at Gull Crest in the fall. They would arrive Friday night and leave on Sunday. There would be approximately 200-300 scouts. They would be willing to work on the property in exchange, for about 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Gull Crest is ideal in many ways because there is parking available. Each troop arrives with a utility vehicle. They are asking permission for above ground firepits, to use the water by the public garden, and to have a bonfire site. This would be held rain or shine.

Mark Dorval showed where the tents would be placed, in the back fields behind the community garden. Those fields are mown once a year. Porta potties would be placed there and also near the garage. If there is a bonfire, the Fire Department will need accessibility. This will be Leave No Trace camping.

The Planner gave the application to the Public Works Director, who said he didn't see any problems with it.

It was stressed that if the land is wet at that time, the utility vehicles could not be driven to the campsites.

The amount of gray water should be minimal, and it may be screened to keep food bits off the ground.

The community will be informed by an article in the Cape Courier, and an announcement on the public access channel.

Motion: To recommend to the City Council that Troop 30's request for a permit to hold a camporee at Gull Crest be approved. The land will be walked shortly prior to the event to determine if it is dry enough for the vehicles to park on. The Commission will review management priorities to identify project work for the Scouts.

Passed unanimously

3. Cross town trail signage. Possible logos were presented and reviewed. The size of the disc is planned for 2 inches, round. The suggestion was made that a feature that is more symbolic of Cape Elizabeth, like a lighthouse, be incorporated. Light blue was suggested as a color. This proposal will now be referred to Cape Elizabeth Land Trust.

4. Winnick Woods trail signage. Some new signs have been installed, including the new map in the map case at the kiosk, which is now locked. The dog waste station will be installed soon by Public Works.

5. Winnick Woods boardwalk trail. The Resource Protection Permit will be on the Planning Board agenda for April 27.

6. Boat rack expansion. The Planner submitted a proposal to the Sprague Corporation to expand the number of boat rack slots from 30 to 46, with a new small rack. There may be enough money in the set aside account to cover the costs of building the new rack.

7. Seasonal trail closures. With the start of mud season, it is time to post closed trails.

Motion: To enact seasonal trail closures to mountain bicycles where the conditions are muddy and traffic would pose a problem.

Passed unanimously

The Planner will post a notice on the website and send an email to the list of interested parties. All trails will be closed until further notice, with an anticipated re-opening on May 1. Closure signs will be posted at Gull Crest, Stonegate, and Cross Hill off Hawthorne Road.

8. Paper street engagement plan. The City Council adopted a three-part paper street engagement plan. The first task is to review the 2015 paper street report, which was referred to the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The Commission is to review the paper streets that may or may not be utilized for the Greenbelt, and make a recommendation. This will be placed on next month's agenda.

9. Alewife Brook. The Nature Conservancy is taking a group of people out to check the brook for alewives on Friday, April 18. The first town up from salt water owns the rights to the alewives, and Great Pond is large enough to support a population, if the alewives could get there.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting: May 12, 2015