

Conservation Commission Minutes
July 14, 2015

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

Guests: Jed Talbot, Suzanne McGinn, Ann Cranshaw

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

1. The minutes of May 12, 2015 were approved unanimously.
2. Citizen comments. None
3. Great Pond steps replacement. Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Path trail construction firm, based in Turner, Maine, has been hired by Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) to replace the stone steps at Great Pond. The Commission will be sharing the costs with CELT. The steps that are currently there are failing because the stones are undersized and were simply put in place in clay, and did not have enough crib or supporting stones on either the downhill or uphill side. To install steps that will last a long time and not shift, it is necessary to lay a gravel bed and significantly increase the mass of the material, perhaps as much as 30 tons. CELT is interested in steps that are as lightly built as possible, with no need for a railing. The steps will take two weeks to construct.

Chris Franklin of the Land Trust has secured landowner permission for access through the field so that the materials can be driven very close to the site, and then lifted into place. It is a pretty steep slope, so 18 to 24 inch stones will be used. Both upslope and downslope support will be installed. Bikes should be carried over the steps, because the cross-slope is too steep.

The Commission set a limit of \$7500 for its share, in a previous meeting. The crushed stone will be donated by Skip Murray. The current steps may be able to be re-used for flagstone. The estimated cost of the stone, if it needs to be purchased, is approximately \$5300. The total cost of the project would be about \$15,300.

There was discussion of the need for a railing to improve stability, with the understanding that a railing is very difficult to maintain. Mr. Talbot recommended constructing the staircase to accommodate a natural gait, with 6 to 8 inch risers, and then wait to decide on the railing until trying out the new steps.

Motion: To increase the maximum amount of the Conservation Commission's share of the construction of the stone steps at Great Pond to \$8500.

Passed unanimously

The Land Trust will notify the Commission when the work is to be done, and the trail can be closed.

4. Winnick Woods Bridge construction. There are 3 sections to the bridge project. The approach bridge, Section 1, spans the hummocky area, at 8 feet, and would be built as a single dock style. The main span, Section 2, is a 30 foot bridge, built as a single dock style. The boardwalk, Section 3, is a 95 foot boardwalk, built as a bog bridge. The estimated price of materials, based on Home Depot pricing, would be \$1235.65.

The dog-walking group has offered to help with the project. Perhaps they could be asked to haul the materials to the site. From the Fitzpatrick side the distance is shorter, from the Winnick's side, a tractor would be able to bring it very close. When the material gets dropped, it needs to be used very quickly and not left laying out.

Motion: To approve an expenditure of up to \$1000 for construction of a bridge at Winnick Woods, with the cost to be matched 50% by NEMBA.

Passed unanimously

Work day: Saturday, August 15, 8:00 a.m. to noon. The delivery of the lumber will be scheduled for Friday, August 14.

5. Paper Street Public Engagement Plan. The Planning Board has completed their review and is scheduled to finalize their recommendation to the Council.

There are two little sections in the Brentwood neighborhood, U21-1 and U21-2. Ann Cranshaw is interested in the vacation of U21-2 off Star Road at the end of Dearborn Drive, so she can do some work on her property. The paper street is currently used by students to walk to school, and bikes go through there. She would be willing to grant a pedestrian easement.

Motion: To vacate paper street U21-2 with the retention of a pedestrian and bicycle easement.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To vacate paper street U21-1.

Passed 5-2

Lighthouse Point Road, U15-1, abutting Coast Guard land, and U15-2 at the end of Balsam.

Motion: To retain paper street U15-1.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To vacate paper street U15-2.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To send the Conservation Commission's amended list regarding paper streets to the Town Council.

Passed unanimously

6. Cross town trail signage.

Motion: To approve the Cross town trail logo with the black tree and blue background. To approve the purchase of 500 medallions, based on which company offers the best price, with the cost to be shared with the Land Trust. To order a 1 foot square road stencil.

Passed unanimously

The Planner will develop an implementation strategy and timetable, as well as map updates and publicity.

7. 2014 Greenbelt Plan priorities. The Council approved the Commission's request for \$25,000 for projects starting July 1, 2015. It is recommended that the money be programmed by February 2016, when the next year's budget preparation begins. The priority-setting process should be a two-year span.

This fall the town will be receiving a new set of aerial photographs. Those could be reviewed for encroachments, and letters sent out to landowners where necessary. The Commission could visit locations and determine potential actions.

8. Boy Scout troop project for October 23-25 Camporee. The Scouts are looking for a project for 150 kids for 1 hour, as a good turn in thanks for use of Gull Crest. One possibility is a section of bog bridging between the end of the snow mobile bridge and the two plank Outer Loop trail. Another possibility is the installation of the third plank on the bog bridge. Another possibility is trimming of the cross country ski trail.

9. Robinson Woods I bridge area north bank. CELT will be applying for a Resource Protection Permit to build more boardwalk. NEMBA would be willing to contribute money to the project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Next meeting: August 11, 2015