

Conservation Commission Minutes
November 10, 2015

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Mark Fleming, Jim Tasse, Jeremy Gabrielson, Marti Blair, Council Liaison Molly MacAuslan, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Council Liaison Molly MacAuslan talked about the Council goal-setting process, which included meetings and a survey. The intent for the future is to ask Boards and Commissions for annual reports and future goals. The Conservation Commission can provide input to the Council as a group now for 2016.

Suggested goals: Continue implementation of the Greenbelt Plan. Cooperate with neighboring towns on shared conservation and restoration projects. Address paper streets so that existing and potential Greenbelt trails remain open and fully accessible to the public. Encourage further partnerships with other regional entities that help expand opportunities.

2. The minutes of October 13, 2015 were approved unanimously.

3. Greenbelt Priorities for 2015 Funding.

Canterbury Trail/ Cottage Brook to Ocean House Road, Greenbelt Plan #3 and #4. There was a very productive meeting with the Canterbury on the Cape Association. Homeowners endorsed and are using the trails. There was no opposition to the trail on Canterbury property extending back to Mitchell Road. The association wants to keep traffic off Westminster, and shunt people away from that area. A fence to keep people away from the pool was discussed. The link off Route 77 at property owned by Rita Preston was not objected to by her representative. The Commission will schedule a site walk. A commissioner spoke with Bothel regarding access via his property. Sunday, November 22 or Sunday, November 29 were suggested, at 10:00 a.m., meeting at the southern end of Windmill Road at Old Ocean House Road.

Loveitt Woods access, Greenbelt Plan #1. The Planner corresponded and spoke with the Van Dessels about the trail access along their property boundary. They are not interested in an easement at this time, but are willing to continue the status quo.

Pollack Brook to the Spurwink River, Greenbelt Plan #13. Sebago Technics has submitted a proposal for professional engineering and environmental services including wetland mapping and permitting assessment, at a cost of \$4000.

Motion: To recommend the expenditure of \$4000 for the Pollack Brook study.
Passed unanimously

Gull Crest Outer Loop improvements. The Eagle Scout project for trail improvements will be completed shortly. The Planner will ask Skip Murray for an estimate for adding to the eastern end of the plastic bridge and adding a third board to the long section.

Dogs. A citizen expressed concerns about the dog walking companies using Greenbelt trails. The Planner is stressing courtesy in an upcoming Cape Courier article. Individual dog owners are suggesting a limit on number of dogs for commercial dog walkers.

Snowmobiles. The problems in the past have mostly been around Great Pond, where snowmobiles are not allowed. Snowmobiles are allowed in Gull Crest and Town Farm. The Courier article will contain an informational paragraph.

Dyer Woods to Oakhurst Trail, Greenbelt Plan #1. The Planner will prepare a map and analysis of the trail area.

Sawyer Marsh/Trout Brook trail, Greenbelt Plan #2. The Planner will investigate obtaining public access rights.

Nordic Trail surface rehab. The Planner will reach out to the Nordic trail boosters.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Next meeting: December 8, 2015