

Conservation Commission Minutes  
January 12, 2016

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Zach Matzkin, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Jim Tasse,

Staff: Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Cindy Krum

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

1. Public Comment. The commission welcomed Cindy Krum, new Executive Director of the Land Trust. The Land Trust would like to use the "reject" CTT signs as prizes. The commission agreed to give 1/2 of the signs to CELT. They did not ask for half of the signs, but did take them. Because of sharpness, they are not appropriate for certain uses.

2. Election of Officers. The commission recognized the 2 consecutive year limit that a chair may serve and unanimously elected Jim Tasse Chair for 2016. Marti Blair's excellent work as secretary was recognized and she was elected Secretary for 2016.

3. The minutes of December 8, 2015 were approved unanimously. The commission revisited the bridge that needs replacing at Cross Hill on the blue trail. This bridge was not installed by the commission and members agreed to look at it, and also making sure it will not detrimentally impact the farm pond downstream.

4. The 2016 meeting schedule was approved, with the meeting on election night noted.

5. The Fort Williams Foundation has asked for a letter of support for an RTP grant request. The commission voted unanimously to provide a letter.

6. Conservation Commission members noted the upcoming Orientation session. They also reviewed the Town Council goals referencing the Conservation Commission. A report is due to the Town Council in July. The commission agreed to discuss the goals at the following meetings:

March 8th	Review all uses of the greenbelt trail
April 12th	Consider allowing horses to use the greenbelt trails at all times
May 10th	Receive a report showing missing links in the cross town greenbelt trail and detailing other significant links to neighborhoods

The budget will be discussed in February.

7. The commission discussed greenbelt priorities.

Gull Crest

They reviewed the excellent work the Boy Scouts recently completed at Gull Crest adding a third board to some of the existing boardwalk and constructing a third boardwalk. Now, a third board needs to be added to the remaining boardwalk, plus additional boardwalk on a muddy section at the beginning and the end. The estimated cost reflects that not a lot more sleepers are needed. The cost of \$5,752 reflects a \$2,500 donation and does not include an additional 100' that may be needed.

The commission voted unanimously to authorize up to \$7,000 for Gull Crest Outer Loop boardwalk improvements. Mitch Wacksman agreed to coordinate location of boardwalk onsite with the contractor.

### Pollack Creek

Staff provided an update on site visit held earlier today with the Steve Harding, Town Engineer and consultant on project and Jen Harris, DEP. The commission agreed that the existing boardwalk now sitting in the creek bed should be removed and will ask Public Works for assistance. The commission will wait for more information from the consultant before making a decision on next steps.

### Cottage Brook to Ocean House Rd

The site walk for this trail is on hold until Spring. Staff will contact with property owners. The commission discussed options to address one property owner's concern with the possible trail location and are confident concerns could be addressed.

### CTT Signs

Installing signs is still on hold until spring unless snow cover will support installing them while on skis. The commission noted this would be a good Eagle Scout project. We also need to update our mapping and coordinate a public information effort.

### Winnick Woods Blue Trail

The commission discussed resolving this muddy section by June. It has good access and materials are reasonable. This would be a good scout project, but NEMBA may also be willing to help as part of its Trails Day.

8. Executive Session. At 8:39 p.m., the Conservation Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition/disposition. At 8:55 p.m., they ended the Executive Session and resumed the meeting.

9. Dyer Woods to Oakhurst Trail. The commission reviewed a draft letter to send to property owners along the potential Dyer Woods to Oakhurst trail. The letter should emphasize why the trail would be good for the neighborhood, allowing better movement off-road and a resource for kids. The letter will be revised, signed by the chair and sent out.

10. No members of the public were present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting: February 9, 2016