

Conservation Commission Minutes
March 7, 2016

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Zach Matzkin, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Garvin Donnegan, Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Anne Carney, Matt Craig, Cindy Krum, David Volin

Meeting called to order at 7:25 p.m.

1. Citizen comments. David Volin (Lawson Road) requested permission to place a nest box for Bard owls on town property. He will donate the nesting box, which he built based on research he has done, and brought the box for the commission to see. The commission discussed suitable placement locations.

Motion: To grant David Volin permission to erect an owl nesting box on town owned property near the end of Dyer Pond Road.

Passed unanimously

2. Minutes. The Minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Robinson Woods II Public Access Easement Review. Cindy Krum, Executive Director of Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, gave a verbal update on trail improvements and the public access plan for Robinson Woods. CELT is currently conducting an online survey of public use on the property. The Planner asked if there had been any updates to the natural resources inventory; Cindy responded that there have not been any updates yet. The Commission requested a written update on public access at Robinson Woods; and a copy of the survey results when they are available. CELT President Anne Carney stated that CELT does not believe that requiring dogs to be leashed is a limit to public access. The town planner asked that, after CELT completes its public access online survey, and if the CELT Board decides to make any changes to public access, that the town be notified before the changes are implemented.

4. Alewife Brook Monitoring Fund. Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) is preparing a funding request to Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) to fund monitoring of the alewife run on Alewife Brook. A contractor will be hired to oversee the monitoring effort; CELT will assist with volunteer recruitment and provide staff support.

Motion: To support CELT funding proposal to conduct monitoring of the alewife monitoring effort on Alewife Brook with a \$1,000 cash match; and the understanding that any publicity around the monitoring effort will recognize the Conservation Commission's support.

Passed unanimously

5. Review of Greenbelt Uses. In response to a request from the Town Council, the Conservation Commission reviewed all uses of greenbelt trails as established in the Greenbelt Management Plan. There was discussion of uses on properties that have been added since the management

plan was prepared. The Commission will also separately review horseback riding at the next Meeting (April 12, 2016).

Motion: To re-affirm the summary of uses established in the Open Space Management Plan.

Passed unanimously

6. Greenbelt priority: Pollack Brook. The Town Planner intends to explore grant funding for the bridge replacement project, which the Conservation Commission discussed and endorsed.

7. Greenbelt priority: Gullcrest Outer Loop improvements. Work on the outer loop has been completed.

8. Greenbelt priority: Dyer Woods to Oakhurst. No update at this time.

9. General trail management: The Commission discussed temporary trail closures to protect the trail surface.

10. Executive Session. At 9:20 the Conservation Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition/disposition. At 9:32 the Executive Session ended.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Next meeting: April 12, 2016