

Conservation Commission Minutes
August 17, 2016

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

Staff: Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Cindy Krum and Tom McInerny, CELT; Fred Sprague and Ron Gryglas, Canterbury on the Cape Association

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. Citizen Comments. Cindy Krum would like some Conservation Committee members to volunteer to serve on the Glew Property/Great Pond Preserve committee. The committee meetings would be open to the public and would discuss trails and public use.
2. Minutes. The minutes of May 31, 2016 were approved unanimously.
3. Canterbury Trails. Fred Sprague and Ron Glyglas representing the Canterbury Association attended the meeting. Canterbury has about 60 acres and there is a complex network of trails on the property. We have had problems with managing trail use, and we don't want trail users in our swimming pool area. We would appreciate some help with trail use management and our board is currently interested in partnering with the town. Individuals, not the town, have been installing trails and we have spoken to one individual and he is discontinuing some trails. We are ok with some trail use, but there are safety and liability concerns, so we prefer the town take on maintenance. There is no outlet to Ocean House Rd now, but in the short term a loop and outlet to Mitchell Rd may work.

Mr. Tasse is confident we can come to agreement and we want to work with you. We are trying to help with information to the public about your concerns and it is your property, so we can help with steering folks away from where you don't want them. Maine state law is very good at protecting landowners who allow public access, and if you give us a license that will also protect you.

Mr. Sprague said he doesn't know if giving the land to the town is the right thing at this point, but we can try this interim step of a license agreement. Mr. Wacksman asked if there is anything else we can do. Mr. Sprague said your efforts, and the signs, are making progress.

Everyone reviewed a concept map showing casual trails on the property.

Ms. O'Meara said this approach we wanted to present to the Conservation Committee is a replacement to the earlier discussion of getting a surveyor out there to begin an easement transfer. This approach is to provide an at will license and then the Conservation Commission and Canterbury members will identify in the field trails to be signed and

managed by the town. This approach is independent of the current easement held by the town. Longer term, we may revise the current easement, but for now, we will partner to manage trails. Mr. Sprague wants the expertise of the conservation committee to lay out trails in a way that avoids erosion and stays out of the mud.

Mr. Gabrielson made a motion to move forward with this incremental approach that will include a buffer from the swimming pool area and town management of trails. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Great Pond Preserve Committee. Mr. Tasse asked for Conservation Committee volunteers. Mr. Wacksman and Mr. Fleming volunteered and are familiar with the property.

Mr. McInerney, CELT Board member, explained the committee would be ongoing, but initially would choose locations to lay out trails, signage etc. Ms. Krum said the intent would be to do layout over the winter and perhaps have the eighth grade project be on the property in the Spring.

Mr. Wacksman said that there is snowmobile use on the property and if snowmobiles will not be allowed, you may want to get signage going before winter. Ms. Krum said the committee may start with immediate needs, then shift to planning. Mr. Wacksman said that right now cross country skiing is over two properties in one loop.

Ms. Krum said the committee meetings will be held at the Land Trust offices initially and open to the public and she will need assistance with the public notice. Ms. O'Meara suggested preparing an agenda for each meeting, send it to her, and she will arrange for it to be posted to the town website calendar. Mr. Tasse noted the conservation committee agenda may be a model for how to provide for public participation at meetings.

The committee asked about paper streets abutting the Glew property. It was noted that those streets are proposed to be accepted and there is horse back riding use. In response to a question, Ms. Krum said that the Strouts are not interested in an easement that connects to Ocean House Rd.

The committee voted 4-0 to appoint Mark Fleming and Mitch Wacksman as representatives to the Great Pond Preserve committee. Ms. Krum will email to set up a meeting date.

5. Cross Town Trail signage improvements. The cross trail walk will be Saturday, October 1st, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The committee agreed to designate a representative at the September meeting.

Mr. Gabrielson said that he observed during the June walk that there are sign gaps. The road section and school property need some signage. Staff should obtain road stencils. On the school property, some signage by the tennis courts and across the stretch of grass is needed. Ms. O'Meara was directed to work with the Public Works Director about trail

marking. A sign should also be added at the Methodist Church in the Ocean House Rd right-of-way and at the trail by the football field.

6. Other signage. The committee reviewed signage at the Fowler Rd connector. The property owner is concerned with rutting of the lawn and would like bikers to walk over the lawn. The committee discussed ways to work with the property owner, including more separation between the lawn and the trail, and the expectation of compliance. The committee agreed to update the signage to require bikers to dismount. The committee will also do outreach on discourage undesirable behavior to bike shops, NEMBA, etc. A sign with map should also be installed at south end of the Cottage Brook trail to show the outlet to Spurwink Ave.

On the Cottage Brook trail near Spurwink Ave, boardwalk is needed. The committee voted 5-0 to recommend to the Town Council that boardwalk be installed. Staff will prepare a request to the Town Council to pursue a resource protection permit from the Planning Board to install the boardwalk. The boardwalk will be constructed with 2 x 10, on 4x4 sleepers.

The committee also wants a map sign at Golden Ridge.

7. Other trail management items. Mr. Gabrielson discovered a fire ring in Loveitt Woods in addition to the one he dismantled. Staff will prepare a public information article discouraging fire rings on town open space.
8. Town Council goals. The committee voted 5-0 to forward recommendations on the town council goals referred to the committee.
9. Pollack Brook. The committee discussed options for replacement of Pollack Brook, including installing a pedestrian bridge next to Spurwink Ave. The committee voted 5-0 to pursue a grant application to install a new bridge in the original location. Mr. Fleming agreed to represent the Conservation Committee at the September 12th Town Council meeting when the grant application will be considered.
10. Monthly trail walk. We need to look improving Cross town trail signage in time for the October walk. The committee agreed to look at the marking needing at a site visit scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, from 5-7 p.m., to meet in front of the town hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen O'Meara
Town Planner