

Conservation Committee Minutes
October 11, 2016

Present: Jim Tasse, Mitch Wacksman, Marti Blair, Zach Matzkin, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Maureen O'Meara (staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Ms. O'Meara apologized for her absence at the last meeting. She was attending the Town Council workshop on the same evening when paper streets were discussed. She also updated the Conservation Committee on the adoption of a new Board and Committee Ordinance. This ordinance changed the name of the Conservation Commission to Conservation Committee. It also requires that minutes of meetings be prepared by staff, and she thanked Marti Blair for preparing last month's minutes in her absence.
2. Citizen comments on items not on the agenda. No member of the public wished to speak.
3. The minutes of September 13, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Pollack Brook Bridge grant. Ms. O'Meara confirmed the grant application had been submitted for a total of \$48,475. Of that amount, \$10,800 is proposed as a cash match, plus the Conservation Committee should plan on additional \$5,000 in engineering design costs, so \$16,000 should be reserved in this year's budget if the grant is awarded. Staff will provide a budget update at the next meeting.
5. Town Council referral on paper streets to revisit. Mr. Tasse said he has spoken with Councilor Garvin. He said the committee believes a trail can be constructed on Surfside Ave easily. There are questions about the level of finish and scope and different tiers should be explored.

He opened this item up to public comment.

Deb Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd, Shore Acres Improvement Association (SAIA) - The association had a survey done by a professional surveyor registered in the State of Maine. Pins were located and overlaid onto a satellite map. She is providing this survey to the town. (A copy was handed to the chair.)

David Jones, 2 Algonquin Rd- He is a retired civil engineer and estimates that a trail can be installed with 10 hours of labor, which will mostly consist of vegetation removal. He

walked the potential trail Friday. Statewide surveys performed the survey and we will authorize the surveyor to release the digital data to the town.

Chuck Rzeszutko, 6 Waumbek Rd - He is a member of SAIA and met with the DEP in February. The town's shoreland zoning is similar to the state mandated shoreland zoning. Unless an NRPA permit is needed, a state permit would not be needed to build the trail.

Sheila Mayberry, 30 Trundy Rd - She is not on the SAIA board, but if you want to work with a SAIA liaison, you could ask them to designate someone. It might speed up the work needed. She wants concerns addressed so the Town can get started on the trail.

It was clarified that Ms. Murphy is a liaison and Mr. Jones is Chair of the SAIA Path committee.

Sheila Wellehan, 24 Rocky Hill Rd - She said there is so little public access for a town with so much shore frontage and this is a wonderful opportunity to increase public access.

The Public comment period was closed.

Ms. O'Meara explained that the Town Council referral for Surfside Ave and Lighthouse Point Rd is very similar to the technical assessments the Conservation Committee has done for the bridge in Winnick Woods and the Pollock Brook Bridge project. Using those approaches as a model, she suggests the committee proceed with getting some technical assistance with a boundary survey, design feasibility and analysis of the permitting required.

Ms. Blair asked if we should consider special limitations for these paths such as no bikes, and hours open.

Mr. Gabrielson said he would not consider limitations until we consider users and the level of users to support. That should inform the design. Management decisions on restrictions are premature now.

Mr. Tasse acknowledged that politics may drive restrictions but he is concerned with deviating from our standard trail design. He noted the Cliff walk does not allow bikes.

Mr. Wacksman also does not want to discuss deviations from our standard trail at this time.

Mr. Fleming also concurred that is it premature but can be considered later.

Mr. Wacksman wants the study to use the 5' wide path standard, and Mr. Tasse said a 2' and 3' scenario could be included.

Ms. O'Meara said a study scope should be developed, and may include a boundary survey, layout of a trail with an effort to keep a minimum distance from the cliff edge but otherwise maximize the separation of a trail from abutting properties, both for the comfort of trail users and sensitivity to abutters. The study should also show areas where vegetation could be planted to create a buffer and separation between the trail and abutters. The buffer plantings could be treated as an alternative cost item that abutters could have input into. The buffer should provide a separation but not compromise the ocean views of abutters. The committee agreed to this approach.

The committee shifted to Lighthouse Point Rd. In that situation, the scope should include the existing trails on the Coast Guard property, the long term status of the Coast Guard property, and management of existing trails.

The committee agreed to review a draft scope at the November 8th meeting. It was noted that the referral from the Town Council also included some resources for the technical assessment.

6. Canterbury trail license. The license is still in process. Conservation Committee members are concerned with recent flagging and responses from trail users, but agreed the best approach is a joint effort with Canterbury once the license has been signed.

7. Cross Town Trail signs. Committee members have completed installing the CTT sign decals and spray painted the CTT logo. No stencils have been done south of Golden Ridge Lane and maybe some additional stenciling may be done. Committee members have the stencils and appreciated the paint provided by Public Works. Tom McInerny from CELT was part of the marking team and a team effort with CELT was appreciated.

8. Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk CIP item. Ms. O'Meara reported that volunteer Peter Dixon had replaced about 10 failed boards on the boardwalk. In inspecting the boardwalk with Public Works Director Bob Malley, the decking is showing signs of wear. Staff recommends that replacement of all decking in the next 3-5 years be submitted as a capital improvement project. The committee supports that recommendation and would like the project to be considered with either pressure treated or composite wood (such as trex) decking.

9. Stonegate bridge. The committee noted a report that a bridge in Stonegate had slipped its support. Committee members will check the bridge.

10. Great Pond Preserve II Committee. Mr. Fleming and Mr. Wacksman reported on the progress of the committee. They are looking at trail alignments and would like to connect a trail to the town easement and an existing trail adjacent to the "small pond" northeast of Great Pond. Staff confirmed the small pond is located on a town easement and a trail would be allowed. The committee supported this idea and would like to see a map showing the proposed trails when it is available. There are existing trails on the Great Pond Preserve II property that connect to a horse farm, and the horse farm owner has been contacted. The Great Pond Preserve II Committee will hold a site visit on Sunday, November 6th beginning at 12:30 p.m. and meeting at the small pond.

11. Cottage Brook Boardwalk. This boardwalk project, estimated at 250' long, will be on the November 15th Planning Board meeting agenda and a representative from the Conservation Committee needs to be there.

12. Dogs on the greenbelt. The Conservation Committee is doing a routine review of management policies and considering public comments.

Public Comment

Sheila Wellehan, 24 Rocky Hill Rd - She strongly supports the Conservation Committee philosophy for multi-use trails with minimal rules. She asks the committee not to deviate from that and to promote responsible behavior. If there are rule changes, she supports having data to support the need for the change. She noted the new trails discussed are neighborhood trails.

Deb Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - She agrees with the above comments.

Public Comment closed.

The committee reviewed the summary of comments list. They agreed to continue providing vests during hunting season, to create leash zones in the Gull Crest and Winnick Woods parking lots, to add a pet waste station at the Town Farm and to require dog owners to have a leash with them. They would like to remove the discarded fishing line at Great Pond, and to further distribute the dog brochure. They will monitor the need for another pet waste station. No action on the other comments will be taken at this time. They also noted that there is an existing dog ordinance.

13. Paper street site visit. The committee scheduled a site walk on November 9th at 8:00 a.m. at Surfside Ave, to be followed by a site visit at Lighthouse Point Rd.

14. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on November 8th. Committee members noted this was election night but would still meet. Items for that meeting will

include a Scope of Technical services for the Town Council referral on paper streets and the Cottage Brook boardwalk project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.