

Conservation Committee Minutes
November 8, 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.

No members of the public wished to speak.

1. The minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting were approved 6-0.
2. The committee discussed the draft scope of work for the Paper St/trails feasibility study. Mr. Wacksman asked about SAIA's (Shore Acres Improvement Association) role in the study. Ms. O'Meara suggested that the Town Council had referred the study to the Conservation Committee, and SAIA can participate just as any other member of the public has input into the committee's work.

Mr. Tasse suggested revising the scope to specify a 5' wide trail with a 2' wide treadway in order to reduce engineering needs, costs and to be consistent with existing greenbelt trails. The committee agreed.

Mr. Matzkin asked why the Coast Guard property was referenced in the scope? Ms. O'Meara said that the value of Lighthouse Point Rd is as access to the Coast Guard property. Mr. Wacksman wanted it clear that the report should deal separately with each paper street, either as 2 separate reports or a report in 2 separate parts. Mr. Gabrielson asked about access to the Coast Guard property to obtain data and Ms. O'Meara noted the scope allows for using available information if access is not available.

The committee voted 6-0 to send the revised scope to the Town Engineer to request a contract to perform the work.

3. The committee received an update on the Planning Board application for a Resource Protection Permit to construct a boardwalk on the Cottage Brook open space. The committee recommended that the Town Engineer be retained to obtain any necessary DEP permit.
4. The committee acknowledged the CIP request submitted to the Town Manager for eventual redecking of the Spurwink boardwalk and bridge.
5. The committee discussed a management policy for power-assisted bikes on greenbelt trails. There is concern that these bikes function more like motorized

vehicles, both with speed and damage to the trails, and increased user conflicts. The committee agreed to put them in the motorized vehicle category for management purposes, which means they are prohibited on most greenbelt trails by conservation deed restrictions. Mr. Gabrielson noted the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is taking the same approach. Ms. Blair cautioned that we need to keep open-minded about a variety of users, and the committee agreed that uses such as motorized wheelchairs, which operate at a much slower speed than power-assisted bikes, would continue to be allowed.

6. The committee followed up on the dogs on the greenbelt decisions from the last meeting.
7. The committee discussed miscellaneous greenbelt issues, including rogue deer stands (a permit should be obtained from the Police Department, who follows up on deer stands without permits), and ATV use on greenbelt trails. Mr. Wacksman and Mr. Fleming are representing the town on the Great Pond II Preserve Committee. They recently held a site walk and ATV use is evident and damaged a stream onsite. The committee noted that some of the Winnick Woods trails are showing wear and a 5-10 year rerouting schedule may be needed. This was put on hold for now. Mr. Tasse reported that CELT is delaying its rerouting of trails in Robinson Woods II until Spring. Someone has repositioned the bridge that slipped in Stonegate.
8. The committee reviewed the Resource Protection Permit requests on the November 15th Planning Board agenda. The committee approved the following motions by a vote of 6-0.

That the Resource Protection Permit be granted with the condition that an inspection be conducted following installation of the pipe to confirm the area has been restored to original grade and revegetated.

That the Conservation Committee recommends approval of the Resource Protection Permit and notes that the boardwalk will reduce impact on the wetland.

9. Committee members noted they would be meeting the following morning to conduct previously scheduled site walks at Surfside Ave and Lighthouse Point Rd. For the December 13th meeting, they will follow-up on greenbelt trail projects such as the Cottage Brook boardwalk.
- 10: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.