

Conservation Committee Minutes  
December 13, 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. The minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting were approved 6-0.
2. Mr. Tasse recognized Ms. O'Meara. She reported that she has heard and read comments that made it clear there is a lot of misunderstanding about the public process. For the benefit of the 40+ members of the public in attendance, she reviewed that the Conservation Committee allows public comment at every meeting. All committee meetings will be posted on the town website meetings calendar, including site visits. She recommends visiting the town website, selecting meetings calendar, and then clicking on the Conservation Committee meeting to look at the agenda, minutes and other materials. The Conservation Committee will only discuss, make decisions at public meetings.

Because the committee has a lot of work to do, their rules allow them to limit public comment to 3 minutes per person for a total of 15 minutes. The public is encouraged to submit written comments to the Conservation Committee. Those comments should be sent by email or mail to the Town Planner, who will distribute them to all members of the committee and also place them in the public file.

3. Public Comment. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to public comment. He explained that each speaker should try to limit their comments to 3 minutes. Twenty minutes have been set aside just for the paper street technical study at the request of the public, but the committee has a lot of work to do, so public comment will be limited.

Mr. Kourakos asked if the twenty minutes could be divided up into 3 6-minute segments and his neighborhood has decided who will speak. Mr. Tasse asked committee members, and it was determined that some of the public in attendance wanted to speak about a different paper street. The committee agreed to limit speakers to 3 minutes. Another member of the public asked how it would be determined who would get to speak and Mr. Tasse said that he would recognize people.

Gail Krusec, 8 Lighthouse Point Rd - She said that the Lighthouse Point Rd area has organized into a neighborhood association. She has a petition signed by 87

people that they want to send to the Town Council opposing a greenbelt trail on the paper street. She does not want a connection to the Lobster Shack and the Coast Guard land. She wants the study to review costs, manpower, how residents will be impacted, wetlands, parking and traffic in the neighborhood. This trail is #5 on Trip Advisor.

Mitchell Lench, 15 Lighthouse Point Rd - He reviewed the scope of work and wants to know why he wasn't involved in the beginning. He is concerned with security, trespassing. The town should first engage the neighborhood, not do a feasibility study. He wants a study that includes traffic, parking signage, and fire safety.

Mr. Tasse asked for a show of hands of people who wanted to speak about a different paper street and several people raised their hand.

Jim Fisher, NCS, 9 High Bluff Rd - He represents 9 property owners on Surfside Ave. He already has extensive plans and a report, which shows a trail in the paper street will not be that easy to construct. He will share his information.

Deb Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - She is a civil engineer and a Surfside Ave trail has the support of the Shore Acres Improvement Association (SAIA). SAIA went to court to defend paper street rights and won. This is a rare opportunity for a coastline trail and not all the neighbors have deeded rights to the paper streets. The abutters do not pay taxes on the paper street and also get a discount on the value of the property they own. Mr. Fisher's report was available when the Greenbelt Plan included this trail.

Bill Kourakos, 15 Two Lights Terrace - He is also speaking for his neighbor Ken Lane. He has no confidence the Conservation Committee understands the tourist issue with use of the natural Lighthouse trail. All other trails have parks and monitoring. On July 16th, a woman drove a stolen car into his house which started a fire. She chose this spot because it was close to the lighthouse and therefore more visible. He does not want a technical study done and distributed pictures of the house fire.

Steev Sutton, 10 Pilot Point Rd - He has lived in other towns and likes public access trails. We should share with others and scenic views should not private and available to the wealthy only. The original Shore Acres developer left the area for a path, Native Americans have had a path. We are coming full circle.

During the public comment period, several people called out questions regarding public comment, offering to donate their 3 minutes when they had not been recognized, and the technical study.

At 7:40, the public comment period was closed and the committee took a 5-minute recess.

4. Cottage Brook boardwalk. The committee heard that no additional DEP permit would be needed, but pictures of the completed boardwalk should be submitted. The committee will discuss next steps at the February meeting to prepare for construction in the Spring.
5. Canterbury License. The committee received a status report that the license has been accepted by the Town Council. They discussed what, if any, work should be done over the winter. It was agreed that efforts should be made to mark the main trail that extends from Cottage Brook to Mitchell Rd. A site visit was scheduled for December 15th at 3 p.m. The planner will provide blue blazes signs, nails, hammer, etc. A sign showing the trail will also be posted at the Cottage Brook and Mitchell Rd trail ends.
6. Gull Crest Benches. Mr. Wacksman suggested that placement of a few benches in key areas would be a nice amenity in Gull Crest. Potential locations are by the kiosk, and near the confluence of trails at the furthest reach of Gull Crest. The committee discussed possible donation of funds and style of benches, leaning toward a heavy log style used in Yarmouth. The committee will discuss this again in January.
7. Great Pond Boat Racks. The committee reviewed the annual report and endorsed low-level advocacy for permission to build a third rack.
8. Loveitt Woods trail relocation. The committee acknowledged Town Council acceptance of the Bryant easement donation. This includes relocating a loop of trail off the Bryant rear property line, which will be done in the spring. The committee would like the March agenda to include the Loveitt trail relocation, Pollack Brook bridge, Cottage Brook boardwalk and benches.
9. Pollack Brook grant. The committee acknowledged the award of a grant to build the Pollack Brook bridge.
10. January meeting. The agenda will include the paper street study status. The committee also discussed possible relocation of a Winnick Woods trail, but this will be delayed until the March meeting. Mr. Wacksman would like to open a conversation with an abutter to turn a trail into a loop.
11. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.