

Conservation Committee Minutes
January 10, 2017

Present: Marti Blair, Mark Fleming, Robert Petitt, Jim Tasse
Maureen O'Meara (staff)

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

1. Election of Officers. Mr. Fleming nominated Jim Tasse to be Chair, seconded by Ms. Blair. He was elected by a vote of 4-0.
2. The minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting were approved 4-0 (Petitt abstaining).
3. Citizen comments. No citizens chose to comment.
4. Secretary role. The committee reviewed the Board and Committee Ordinance and confirmed that they no longer have to select a Secretary. Minutes are the responsibility of staff to prepare for committee consideration.
5. Canterbury Trail Management. The committee reviewed new signage for the Canterbury Trail. They agreed to change the text to state "private property." They discussed adding dotted lines for future trails, and agreed to instead add a label that additional trails will be marked in summer, 2017. Mr. Tasse and Ms. O'Meara will meet at the end of Columbus Rd on Thursday, January 12th at 3:30 to mark the trail with maps and blue diamonds.
6. Gull Crest Benches. The committee would like to install benches at Gull Crest, and offer the public an opportunity to purchase a dedicated bench. They discussed styles of benches and support a log bench style in use in Yarmouth. Staff will research costs, construction options and fundraising and report back at the next meeting.
7. Volunteer projects. As part of the benches discussion, the committee listed the Cottage Brook boardwalk, improvements to the White trail-Winnick Woods, and the benches as possible volunteer projects. Staff will inquire with the Boy Scouts and other potential volunteers.
8. Great Pond Preserve II. Mr. Fleming reported on the progress of the Great Pond Preserve II committee discussions. That committee is developing a looped trail plan that would connect to the Great Pond Condos easement land held by the town. Staff is directed to determine what permitting would be needed to complete a trail around the "lesser great pond." There was a question about the

need for wetland mapping when installing trails. The Conservation Committee consensus is that wetland mapping should be provided. It is required to obtain a Resource Protection Permit.

9. General trail management. Committee members noted trees down at Gull Crest, and at Broad Cove. Staff will inquire as to removal by our trail maintenance person in the Spring, or another method.
10. Trail management and public participation. Ms. Blair asked for an item to be added to the next agenda to discuss how public participation will be handled for trail projects and studies, such as the Paper Street Technical Study. The committee agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Any ideas members have about the public participation component, specific elements to be included in the report or other comments can be emailed to staff prior to the meeting. Staff is directed to collate these suggestions for the meeting. Staff is also directed to draft a request to the Town Council for an extension to complete the Paper Street study.
11. Planning Board review. The Conservation Committee reviewed the Maxwell Woods plan which is under review for completeness. The committee is aware that they will be asked to provide a recommendation regarding the open space at the next meeting. No comments on completeness were offered.

The Fusco boardwalk Resource Protection Permit was also reviewed. Mr. Petitt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fleming to recommend approval of the Resource Protection Permit, by a vote of 4-0.

12. Next meeting: The committee agenda will include the Paper Street Technical study, Planning Board review of Maxwell Woods and benches.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.