

Conservation Committee Minutes
April 11, 2017

Present: Marti Blair, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Zach Matzkin, Robert Pettit, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara (staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Committee Chair Jim Tasse will not be attending the meeting due to illness. The committee agreed to have Mitch Wacksman act as chair for the meeting.

Public Comment

Mitchell Lench, 15 Lighthouse Point Rd - Mr. Lench has submitted a letter on behalf of the neighborhood. He supports adding practical considerations to the Paper Street Feasibility Study to include traffic, parking, tourism analysis, cost to operate trail, rangers, fences, and bathrooms. Whose interest will the trail serve? Not local residents. This neighborhood is unique with 2 lighthouses and inundated with tourists. We think the Town Council wants to address these issues.

1. The minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting were approved 6-0.
2. Cindy Krum, Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT), and Matt Craig, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), presented the results of the 2016 Alewife Brook fisheries monitoring. The monitoring was done over 2 months and one-third of the cost was donated by the Conservation Committee. Remaining funding will be used to monitor for 1.5 months this year.

Matt Craig noted the draft report, and that there are about 10 more volunteers this year. We are almost doubling the sampling events from May to June. The data shows not many alewives. This could be due to the drought, predators in the stream, and potential swimming impediments. The quantity of alewives does not support harvesting.

Mr. Fleming asked about the tide. Mr. Craig said that northeaster storms have driven rocks into the stream mouth, which are impeding swimming for fisheries until high tide. It was 17 degrees Celsius when we started seeing alewives. Mr. Fleming asked if "engineering activities" could be used to reduce impediments. Mr. Craig said it is hard to get a permit for rock movement on the beach. They met with the landowner, who will not support dam removal. Mr. Craig questioned how successful juvenile alewives would be migrating to sea during the drought.

Mr. Matzkin asked if alewives must hatch in Great Pond in order to return? Mr. Craig mentioned Mill Brook where it took 8 years for the fishery to establish itself.

Mr. Wacksman asked if it was possible that the run eluded monitoring. Mr. Craig responded that the migration typically moves in "slugs" and they only observed 12 at a time. They might have missed some, but not 50,000.

Mr. Gabrielson asked if they can monitor out-migration and that can be considered. Mrs. Blair asked about alewives historically and no harvesting has been done because the run is too small. There not any documentation historically.

3. The Conservation Committee began the review of Planning Board items by taking public comment.

Emily Helliesen, 11 Hamlin St - She is concerned with the open space in the proposed Maxwell Woods project. She wants trees between Cottage Brook and Maxwell Woods preserved. The proposed Cottage Brook trails have not been put in yet and trail connectivity should be restored.

Becky Fernald, 313 Mitchell Rd - She questions how the 2 acres of agricultural land not owned by the developer can be counted toward the open space for the development. The Conservation Committee should do a site walk. The neighbors want the trees to remain and this is a good project to connect trails.

Mr. Matzkin said he is sick that the trees will be cut down, but if we want to preserve the land, we need to buy it. Mr. Wacksman concurred. Mrs. Blair asked about creating a usable temporary trail to reestablish connectivity for the summer, 2017.

The Conservation Committee approved a motion by a vote of 6-0 recommending that a usable trail be preserved during construction that connects Spurwink Ave to the existing Canterbury trails.

4. The committee asked about the Pollack Brook project. We will be asking Sebago Technics to manage the project, and will need to do a historical survey as part of the permit.

5. The committee reviewed the Great Pond Preserve II Resource Protection permit to construct boardwalks as part of the trail network. The committee voted 6-0 to support the Resource Protection Permit, noting that 2 members had done site walks on the property.

6. The committee discussed additional Canterbury Trail marking as part of the new license. The committee proposed a trail marking on Wednesday, April 26th, at 5:30

p.m., to meet at the end of Columbus Rd. Staff will check with Canterbury if this is convenient.

7. The committee talked about additional greenbelt trail projects. Staff will contact the Boy Scouts regarding any Eagle Scout candidates seeking projects. Chris Thompson has begun trail maintenance for the season and staff will ask him to look at a blowdown in Loveitt Woods. Mr. Fleming complemented the railing at Great Pond. Mr. Gabrielson will work on the trail relocation off the Bryant property at Loveitt Woods and will contact the Bryants.

8. The committee discussed closing trails. Trails seem to be drying fast, but the committee agreed to close the trails, estimated duration 2 weeks. It was agreed that trail closure would be the same as last year, and not include pedestrians. Trails will be posted by Conservation Committee members as follows, with signs provided by staff:
Wacksman - Gull Crest
Gabrielson - Stonegate
Blair - Winnick Woods

9. Additional trail improvements are needed on the Golden Ridge Trail, near Route 77, where a depression should be filled with erosion control mix.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.