

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m. April 10, 2018

Present: Jeremy Gabrielson, Chair, Mark Fleming, Zack Matzkin, Jim Tasse,
Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara, staff

1. Mr. Gabrielson opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. No members of the public wished to speak of items not on the agenda.
2. The minutes were approved 5-0.
3. Tim Gilda, eagle scout candidate, discussed construction of the Cross Hill boardwalk. Ms. O'Meara noted that the boardwalk was on the April 23rd Planning Board agenda for a Resource Protection Permit and asked for a committee representative. Mr. Tasse agreed to represent the Town.

Asked for details of what he would construct, Mr. Gilda said the beginning would be a typical 8' long boardwalk. Other boardwalk sections would be located in muddier sections and would be raised. Mr. Tasse asked if a footing will be placed in the mud? Mr. Tasse discouraged using the design out there now and recommended the treatment used at Cottage Brook. He recommended 2x8 dock style construction with a footing of rocks or 4 x 4s stacked like lincoln logs. Both ends of the connecting boardwalks land on the footing. The committee estimated that the first section would include a 25' long bridge and need 2 footings. The whole length is 50'. The second section is 35' long. The crib helps the bridge not to sink because it has a wide base. Construction in Dyer Woods is a good example. The boardwalk should be constructed with 2 x8 on edge, decked on top, similar to a dock look. Good quality screws should be purchased, such as uber grade, star deck screws. The committee asked Tim to draw the construction detail himself so he is confident on how assembly will work. Tim will be organizing crews to help with construction and will contact town staff to confirm start. Tim will return to the Conservation Committee in May or June. Ms. O'Meara noted she is working on the permitting.

4. Wendy Clark, who is finalizing trail mapping, showed how she is depicting trails on private property with no public access rights. She has met with Falmouth and they want a do not enter designation and just mark the intersection to help folks with navigation. The committee agreed that indicating the intersection of the public trail with a private trail was

appropriate for navigation. The committee agreed that all Winnick Woods trails should be shown. She was asked to add the Scott Dyer Trail and note the CELT Willow Brook trail. Wendy said she was delivering to the printer Thursday and expected to have maps in hand May 1st. They will first be distributed at the sponsors: Cyclemania, Gorham Bike and Ski, LL Bean, Evergreen Subaru in Auburn, Oxbow Brewing, Sebago Brewing and BCM. The set includes 12 maps and 1 master. Those interested can visit Wendingmaps.com to sign up for maps.

5. The committee heard that the Recreation and Open Space Chapter of the comprehensive plan will be reviewed at the May 17th meeting. The Conservation Committee would like to review the snowmobile use on trails this fall.
6. Easement registry. The committee agreed that a list and schedule for monitoring be prepared by staff to standardize visits by members.
7. Seasonal closures. The committee discussed if the trail closures will apply to pedestrians as well as other users. Mr. Tasse suggested that the only way to close Winnick Woods to pedestrians is to install a gate. Mr. Wacksman said Great Pond trail is dry and Two Lights is super wet. Mr. Gabrielson said Loveitt Woods is almost dry, others can be wet. He did see a set of tracks. Which trails should be closed? There was concern that, if Cape opens its trails before other communities, all regional users will come here. The committee noted that people walk their dogs every day and closing to pedestrians impacts more users. They also noted that pedestrians walk along the dry edge and create more damage. Some bikers walk through the wet spots. The committee discussed closing Gull Crest, Great Pond, Two Lights, Winnick Woods and Stonegate/Loveitt Woods. Robinson Woods would be a recommendation only. The committee agreed to open trails on Monday. Mr. Wacksman noted a location where a small boardwalk is needed and he will use CC wood in storage.
8. The committee discussed its recommendation for the Cross Hill boardwalk Resource Protection Permit. The committee acknowledged that they want the boardwalk and still have a responsibility to comment on the RP permit. The committee unanimously voted to recommend the RP permit, because it will minimize impacts on wetland areas, and will note their advocacy of the boardwalk.
9. Pollack Brook. The committee discussed next steps for the Pollack Brook bridge and trail project. The committee identified May 15th or 16th as

possible dates to meet in the field with a surveyor to assist with laying out the location of the trail. Ms. O'Meara will check with Steve Harding on availability.

10. Winnick Wander. The committee discussed the trail rehab work in Winnick Woods. Mr. Tasse reviewed how the trails would be laid out with a new loop around the meadow and a connector lower loop so users will have the option to stay on Winnick Woods instead of continuing onto the Cox Farm. All existing trails will be done at the same time. This is a pilot project. The work will be done the last 2 weeks in June and staff will recruit students to help with raking, shoveling, and wheelbarrowing. Pay will be offered at \$10/hour. Costs will be paid by a grant received by NEMBA.
11. Cliff House Beach management. The committee decided to try and establish interim management of Cliff House Beach before this summer. They decided on a process for the next meeting. The neighborhood will be represented by 2-3 persons who will bring their concerns and any suggestions and present them to the Conservation Committee. The committee will open the meeting up to 15 minutes of public comment. There will be an opportunity for folks to vote on preferred policies. The committee will then put together an interim management plan that will be reviewed at the June 12th CC meeting. If there is general support, the interim plan can be put in place this summer, monitored and evaluated over the winter for adjustments. Staff will notify the neighborhood of this process.
12. Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m.