

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 11, 2019
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Philip Saucier, Zach Matzkin (arrived at 7:30)

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to public comment of items not on the agenda.

Chris Schorn, CELT - Following up on last month's discussion, he has removed the invasive willow at Great Pond. He removed 2 clumps, but there may be more deeper in the water beyond his reach. He will monitor for future removal.

Ms. O'Meara introduced intern Garrett Bozek, who will be working to update greenbelt trail maps this summer.

2. The minutes of the May 16, 2019 meeting were approved by a vote of 4-0.
3. The committee discussed trail closure policy. Mr. Tasse reviewed observations Jeremy Nellis made as part of the Winnick Woods trail rehab project. Dogs have had an impact on the wetlands. Where bridges were located, dogs walked beside the boardwalk and shredded the adjacent land edge. Mr. Moore noted observing on the Winnick Woods trail 6 dogs running all over. Mr. Tasse asked if seasonal trail closure should apply to all or selected users?

Mr. Moore suggested making it dependent on conditions. Mr. Tasse observed that bikes can ride through muddy areas but pedestrians tend to walk the dry edge, which tends to widen the muddy conditions. All users have an impact.

Ms. Day suggested closures apply to all users and Mr. Saucier concurred. Mr. Moore said we should work on plans to improve wet areas with boardwalks. Mr. Tasse noted that the bike community has donated to trail improvements. The Gull Crest meadow is a candidate for seasonal closure.

Ms. O'Meara shared that each year the trail closure decision tends to fall between Conservation Committee meetings, resulting in a

recommendation from the chair which she brings to the Town Manager for a decision. The Town Manager is reluctant to deviate from past year's practice on the recommendation of one person, so it would be helpful for the Conservation Committee to discuss a policy when a seasonal closure is not upon us.

The committee agreed that members should report trail conditions and then the chair can make a recommendation that is forwarded to the Town Manager.

Mr. Moore made a motion to adopt the draft policy on trail closures as amended and to apply to all users. Mr. Saucier seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Greenbelt Management.

Loveitt Woods: Mr. Tasse stated that the trail structures are in very poor condition and should be replaced late summer/early fall. An eagle scout candidate had agreed to do the project. Mr. Tasse and staff will check on project scheduling. The trail structures are in poor condition and if the scout cannot do the work soon, volunteers are ready to proceed.

Pollack Brook trail: Ms. O'Meara is working on relocating the permitted trail to connect to Riverside Cemetery.

Miscellaneous trail projects: Ms. O'Meara reported that permitting analysis still needs to be done for the Three hills trail in Stonegate, and that Cliff House Beach Park signage has been installed, that a contract has been signed with Jordan Gower to redeck the Spurwink Bridge and boardwalk. The Conservation Committee wants erosion control mix added to the Town Farm trail.

5. Trails map update. The committee reviewed and identified the trails for which new location needs to be collected by the intern. The list includes Canterbury on the Cape, Loveitt Woods, sections of Winnick Woods and Gull Crest.
6. Trail projects. The committee reviewed a list of potential trail improvement projects suitable for programming FY2019 funding (See next page). Mr. Tasse noted that the Winnick Woods trail rehab work has been well received, including 2 sections 30'-40' away from wetlands. The committee agreed to the following:

- By a vote of 5-0, rehab a section of trail in the Winnick Woods/Cross Hill area near the power lines.
- Mr. Saucier will coordinate with CELT on one map.
- Ms. O'Meara will seek expertise to advise on mowing the Town Farm meadow. The committee suggested asking the Maine Audubon Society, and maybe mow once in November.
- The committee voted 5-0 to allow a 30' x 10' swath adjacent to the main trail in Winnick Woods to be mowed to provide a set up area for the Bike Clinic event previously approved.

2019 Project list		Estimate	Expended	Status
No	Project			
1	Spurwink Trail: Complete Pollack Brook Bridge project by extending trail to Spurwink River, build 20' boardwalk	2,500		Bridge complete, additional funding to be retroactively authorized. Evaluate permitting, etc for use of cemetery roads and loop at point
2	Pollack Brook cemetery recognition: Obtain advice and establish recognition of the cemetery located on the north side of the bridge	750		Not yet begun. Possible intern research project
3	Spurwink bridge and boardwalk decking: Select preferred option and fund as needed	0		Contractor selected. Waiting for contract to be provided/signed
4	Tiger Lily trail: install new trail link, stabilize and revegetate road connection as needed	\$1,500		Evaluate entrance stability, vegetation
5	Cross Hill trail upgrade: Obtain permitting, replace boardwalk as needed	\$3,000		Obtain DEP determination of extent of mitigation/permitting needed
6	Loveitt Woods trail improvements: replace boardwalk as needed	\$2,500		Eagle Scout candidate to do work in late summer/Fall
7	Easement monitoring: perform needed monitoring of town easements, report to state	\$1,080	\$80	Town Manager in discussions with 70 Cross Hill Rdp; CELT authorized
8	Encroachments: aerial photo analysis, letters to abutters, border markers, etc	2,000		Possible intern project
9	Three hills trail, Stonegate: install 2 boardwalks over wet areas	11,000		Obtain DEP determination of extent of mitigation/permitting needed
10	Winnick Woods trails rehab: Additional trails may be rehabbed	\$8,000	\$4,625	Completed
11	General replacement: Miscellaneous boards and boardwalks need replacement	3,000		Town Farm trail-add erosion control mix, need to specify location
12	Greenbelt Plan implementation: signage, legal fees, materials, survey, permit fees, intern, etc	\$600		Signage ordered for CHBP
13	Meadow/wetland management advice	500		
14	Other: Additional permitting for Winnick Woods?			
15	Greenbelt Map updates	\$1,200		Intern collect field data on trail locations
16	Nordic Trail			Replace culverts
17	Outer loop trail			Replace rotted boards as needed

- Mr. Matzkin suggested a project to make improvements to a wet/culvert area on the Nordic trail, as well as to replace some rotted boardwalk boards. Ms. O'Meara will seek proposals for the work.
7. Culvert Assessment Study. Ms. O'Meara gave a presentation of the recently completed Culvert Assessment study. The top priority for culvert replacement is the Willow Brook culvert.
 8. There was no comment on the Planning Board agenda.
 9. The committee decided to cancel the July meeting. The next meeting will be August 13, 2019.
 10. The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.