

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 13, 2019  
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Robert Petitt, Philip Saucier

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to citizen comments.

Chris Choi, Eagle Scout candidate, would like to work with the Conservation Committee on an eagle scout project. (Chris's father and AJ DiNinno, Scout Leader, were also present)

The committee welcomed his interest and described the need to install trails south of the new Pollack Brook bridge. Most of the trail will align with the gravel roads in Riverside Cemetery, but a section of trail will need some work from the bridge to the cemetery. A new trail will need to be cut on the western edge of the cemetery to the Spurwink River. Chris is interested in this project. Staff will send Chris more information and maps and Chris will meet onsite with committee representatives some time after September 12th to confirm the location. Due to the density of vegetation, the western trail work would best be done in cool weather.

2. The minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were approved by a vote of 5-0.
3. Tiger Lily Trail access. Mr. Tasse opened discussion about the Tiger Lily access to the greenbelt with John Weyrens. Mr. Weyrens is the new owner of 23 Tiger Lily Ln, where a greenbelt trail had previously been located. The trail was relocated into the Tiger Lily right-of-way when the prior owner, Mr. Klingebiel, requested that the trail be moved off his property. The prior location is preferred by the Conservation Committee and the nearby property owners due to topography, ledge and privacy preferences. In addition to Mr. Weyrens, Mr. Wu expressed support and the Carpenters provided a letter supporting relocating the trail to its previous location.

Mr. Weyrens offered to provide the town with an easement for the preferred trail location and to incorporate the trail into his driveway landscaping to be installed next year. He would like the ramp constructed at the end of Tiger Lily Ln to be "de-emphasized," to which the Conservation Committee agreed.

Staff noted that the town had made a significant investment to preserve a greenbelt access at the end of Tiger Lily Ln and Mr. Weyrens agreed that he would bear the costs for creating the easement. The easement would need to be prepared by an attorney and include a description of the easement area prepared by a surveyor. Mr. Weyrens said that he would immediately move the rocks that had been placed by the prior owner blocking the old trail and cut the vegetation so that the Greenbelt trail sign is more visible.

The Conservation Committee will stop further work on the new trail and staff will provide Mr. Weyrens with a model easement.

4. Trail Closure Policy. Ms. O'Meara provided a final copy of the Trail Closure Policy discussed at last month's meeting. She explained that it was not intended to be an item for discussion and that she had received public inquiries if it would be discussed. Ms. Day suggested that the Cottage Brook Trail also be on the potential closure list rather than an option trail during seasonal closures. The committee discussed potential additional improvements to a wet crossing on the trail.
5. Sahrbeck license. Ms. O'Meara reported that Bruce Sahrbeck had signed a trail license, which needs to be approved by the Town Council. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saucier, to recommend that the Town Council accept the license agreement. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Loveitt Woods trail improvements. Mr. Tasse reported that he, his intern, and 10 volunteers met to replace unsafe boardwalk in Loveitt Woods. More work is needed to complete replacements. He provided photos of new and reconditioned boardwalk, substantially improving the trail experience. This was originally an eagle scout project, but the timing did not work out and the boardwalk needed replacement. He will be working again on Wednesday from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Remaining work includes carrying lumber, constructing boardwalk and screwing in decking.
7. Pollack Brook North Burial Ground. The committee reviewed research prepared by intern Garrett Bozek of options for marking the cemetery located on the north side of the bridge. The committee agreed the rock marker was most contextually appropriate. Staff will be researching the property owner in the 1790's as part of preparing wording for the plaque.
8. Greenbelt structures improvements. Ms. O'Meara asked the committee to revisit the three hills trail improvements (2 boardwalks) previously

endorsed. The boardwalks will need state and local permits. The longer boardwalk skirts the edge of a large interior wetland and is about 100' away from an existing trail. It may be difficult to meet the state requirement for alternatives that do not require a wetland impact. After reviewing the maps, the Conservation Committee agreed not to pursue permitting for the long boardwalk.

Staff suggested the committee consider a more comprehensive approach for boardwalk replacements and extensions, especially on open spaces obtained through development review where state permitting is necessary. The committee may want to have a consultant perform a complete review of all boardwalks for replacement and extension, and then pursue permitting rather than the less efficient piecemeal approach. Staff suggested that Cross Hill, Stonegate and Gull Crest be evaluated and the committee decided that all trails should be included.

Mr. Saucier characterized this as a CIP for the greenbelt and endorsed the review. Mr. Moore would like wetland mapping and invasives considered. Ms. O'Meara said that boardwalk widths had varied over the years and that a standardized width would help with the evaluation.

Ms. O'Meara will prepare an RFP for committee review at the next meeting.

9. Maps. The committee reviewed the revised maps prepared by the intern, after collecting new trails data. The committee agreed that the trail should not be shown connecting to Glenden Rd.

Chris Schorn, CELT - CELT is updating its trails map and would like the town to share any trail data.

The committee concurred that data should be shared. Ms. O'Meara explained that the data is public and anyone can access it. She will provide Chris the contact info for the town's GIS consultant so he can contact her directly. Mr. Saucier stated that it is in the public's interest to collaborate with CELT on trail mapping.

10. Dyer Woods Trail. Mr. Tasse noted that the resident has offered to be a volunteer steward of the Dyer Woods Trail.
11. Local Permitting. The committee discussed an option where construction of public greenbelt trails in RP2 wetlands would not require an RP Permit. The Conservation Committee has shepherded several permits through the

Planning Board review process and it is time consuming. Ms. O'Meara noted that recommendation 48 in the 2019 comprehensive plan includes a review of the Resource Protection Permit standards. Mr. Tasse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to include reduced permitting for public greenbelt trails when Comprehensive Plan recommendation 48 is considered.

12. Next meeting. Several members have conflicts with the regular September 10th meeting date. The committee agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.