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Notice: The Conservation Commission will meet on Saturday, August 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the Dyer Pond Rd entrance (near Shore Rd) to the Stonegate Trail system to evaluate repair needs to bridges in Stonegate.

Agenda

Conservation Commission Meeting Notice

DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 2006

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: ACP Conference Room

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Minutes of June 13, 2006 meeting
3. Correspondence: Planning Board approval letter re: Winnick Woods

Summary of grant eligible expenditures

Greenbelt Trails carry forward balance

Letter from P. Willette re: Scarborough marsh work

4. Great Pond Easement. The draft easement is complete and the surveyor will be meeting with staff to generate the legal description the day of the meeting. The boat storage rules are still being revised.

5. Geocaching in Cross Hill. Barry Hansen is requesting a recommendation from the Conservation Commission to the Town Council to place a geocache in the Cross Hill trails. See attached information.

6. Trail improvement needs. The Commission has been contacted regarding trail improvements needed in Stonegate, Two Lights, and Great Pond.

7. Planning Board meeting. See attached agenda.

8. Adjourn meeting. The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2006.

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Minutes

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Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Attendance: Commission members Mike Pulsifer, Mike Duddy, Carol Haas, John Herrick, David Sterling, Jonah Rosenfield and Dick Bauman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara. Also attending were Jeff and Randall Hobbs, John and Nick Quatrano, Muzzy Barton and Peter Dunfey.

1. Chairman Pulsifer called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. The Minutes of April's meeting was accepted as written by a unanimous vote.
3. Correspondence: The Chairman expressed his appreciation to Maureen for preparing the letter sent to David Rocque thanking him for the Wetlands Training session presented prior to last month's Commission meeting.
4. Jonah informed the Commission that he had participated in a Planning Board inspection of the Spurwink Woods development site and afterward spent time with Dale Brewer, a wetlands expert. Mr. Brewer is a principal with the firm of Statewide Surveys, Inc. His company is working for the developers of Spurwink Woods. Mr. Brewer and Jonah toured the open space area and Mr. Brewer provided Jonah with a great deal of valuable information about the wetland and non-wetland areas on the site.

Jonah suggested that Mr. Brewer be asked to take other Conservation Commission members on a similar tour. Commission members agreed and asked Maureen to see if that could be arranged.

5. Eagle Scout Projects.

· Nicholas Quatrano appeared before the Commission to propose construction of a 'foot bridge' over a small stream on the Vernon Road to Great Pond trail. Nick provided the Commission with detailed information about the project including a materials list, construction procedures and diagrams, tools required and a site location map. The only revision requested by the Commission was a widening of the proposed bridge from four to six feet which Nick will be able to do. The Commission then unanimously approved the expenditure of up to \$300 for this project.

· Randall Hobbs also appeared before the Commission to propose construction of a boardwalk over a wet area on the trail leading into Winnick Woods from Sawyer Road. The Commission approved the construction of an 8' wide bridge to be located on the area where there is a dry take-off and landing point, to be funded in an amount not to exceed \$400.

6. Gull Crest Nordic Trail. Muzzy Barton and Peter Dunfey briefly discussed the current status of the project, including the Ski Club's fund raising plans and then the floor was open to comments by Commission members. All aspects of the project were discussed in depth including the trail route, how Gull Crest would be impacted, approaches to trail construction, exact number of days per season that snowmobilers would be asked to stay off the trail (4-5 days per year), the number of days the trail would likely be usable for skiing in a typical Cape winter, the cost as estimated by the Club's trail designer and the Club's ability and willingness to pay for construction, required engineering services and possibly landscaping.

Throughout the discussion Muzzy and Peter responded to the questions and concerns of Commission members, often expressing their belief that the trail would be a major community asset as well as being very beneficial to Middle and High School cross country runners and skiers. They also expressed their willingness to supply the Commission with as much additional information as they could and discuss other requests and concerns of the Commission with the Club's Board.

At the conclusion of the discussion, some members of the Commission continued to have reservations about the project's impact, in its current form, on Gull Crest. Other members were more enthusiastic but, all agreed that the Commission could not develop a recommendation to the Town Council without more information such as a better estimate of costs and an expression of the Club's willingness to raise the necessary funds, possible alternative routes to reduce the impact on Gull Crest, an estimate of likely ski days based on available climate data, engineering information about the trail's length, grading requirements and drainage structures and whether the Club would consider inclusion of landscaping in its trail plans.

Maureen will draft a memo to the Town Council to advise them of the Commission's decision not to make a recommendation for Monday night's meeting without more information. The Chairman will attend the Council meeting to answer any questions they may have.

7. Great Pond Easements. Considering that lateness of the hour, it was decided to postpone consideration of the proposed Great Pond Easement and draft boat storage rules until the June meeting.

8. Trail Events.

· Cross Hill Trails. Mike Duddy reported on the first Cross Hill neighborhood trail meeting, which was held on April 29. It was well attended by more than 15 people including Commission members John Herrick and Dick Bauman. Several others who could not be there have since signed on to do trail work. Cross Hill resident Tom Brady volunteered to lead the group.

At the meeting, Mike gave a short presentation about the Commission and our goals for the neighborhood trails program. After a question and answer session, most of the attendees walked to a section of trail that was identified as being in particular need of work to deal with several very wet areas. Linear measurements were taken and sent to Mike who will prepare a materials estimate for boardwalking. The Commission unanimously approved spending up to \$1,000 for materials.

· Outer Loop boardwalk project – On May 6, Mike Duddy, Dick Bauman and several volunteers met at the outer loop boardwalk construction site to determine how to best carry the trail over an extended length of moving water and very soggy ground. At that time the moving water spanned a distance of almost 50 feet and was 3 or more feet deep in places.

After considering different ways of bridging the water using the telephone poles that had been moved to the site, the group decided the only practical approach was to utilize a floating dock type of structure. The telephone poles would be laid down as the base for a boardwalk across the extended wet areas existing on either side of the running water. That work is planned for Trails Day, June 3.

Maureen will obtain information about commercially available dock systems that might be suitable for use on the trail.

9. Planning Board meeting. Maureen informed the Commission that the Planning Board did not accept the Commission's recommendation concerning the proposed three lot subdivision on Deer Run Road. (The Commission had recommended that the applicants be required to redraw the boundaries of two lots to avoid inclusion of a wetlands buffer area.) Maureen informed the Commission about two other projects before the Planning Board, one of which will require the Commission to make a recommendation at a later time.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25. Next meeting is Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

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