Conservation Commission Trail evaluation 12/2011

Stonegate Trail - John Planinsek

- 1. Trails all good thru the Loveitt Field section of the trail and the northern portion of Stonegate bordering Old Fort/Shore Rd.
- 2-1. Several sections of boardwalk adjacent to Granite Ridge Road could be extended.
- 3-2. It looks like Rock Crest Drive was marked as part of the trail.
- 4-3. Currently this section of the trail does not have any signage. It has always been used as unofficial green trail. If we would like to make it part of the official green trail system, we will need to place signs and probably construct at least one if not two bridges as well as some boardwalk/gravel work on several muddy stretches.
- 5-4. Trail head sign on Rock Crest Drive too far back into the woods. Possible landowner infringement on town land at trail head.
- 6. Map marks part of Rock Crest Drive as trail when it is road.
- 7. The second U shaped portion of the trail that starts and ends on Rock Crest Drive (if you are familiar with the trail, the portion of the trail that starts at the 6 ft wide bridge and ends at the steel bridge that the high school kids built) has never been officially marked as a green trail. People do walk it but we have never put up any greenbelt trail signs. If we do decide to make it an official trail, we will need to do some work on it including at least one bridge.
- 8. The large greenbelt sign at 23 Rock Crest Drive probably needs to be moved closer to the road. Right now, it is hiding too far back off of the road and impossible to see unless you know where to look for it.

Broad Cove - John Marchewka

- 9-1. Wet spot 10" long standing water.
- 10-2. Muddy spot, 15' long, could use fabric and gravel to cover tree roots in way.

- 11-3. Overhanging dead tree 10" diameter. Can walk under, should use chainsaw.
- 12-4. Tow logs over ditch 5-6" logs. Could use planks.
- 13-5. Need trail signage around pond.
- 14-6. Bridge needs some structural supports: decking, good but wobbly and not safe.
- 15-7. Trail to?
- 16-8. Property pin with cap on right side of trail next to pond on right in back of first house on left approaching from Broad Cove.

Great Pond - Marti Blair

- 17. Two broken boards on ramp.
- 18. 2 broken boards on boardwalk.
- 19. 1 missing cap end.

Cross Hill - John Planinsek

- 20. Entered the trails thru Leighton Farms. All good thru the power line heading northeast.
- 21-1. Some muddy wet spots down at the bend near the pond.
- 22-2. On the steep hill coming off of the pond, there is a metal deer stand attached to a tree with a green trail sign. No tag of ownership.
- 23-3. Back onto the power lines heading west, there is an intersection when you can either stay on the power line or head north past a small stream toward Tiger Lily Lane. We had a short bridge and a culvert in this area. Beavers have dammed up the stream, trail is underwater for approximately 150 ft. up to 2 ft. of water.
- 24-4. Back to the power lines heading west. The map shows a short portion of the trail intersecting Cross Hill Road near Cardinal Lane. I do not believe this trail exists, only trails that dead in the backyards.

- 25-5. Just past Poplar Lane, we have another short bridge, needs to be extended with boardwalk 20 ft. on either side.
- 26-6. Another muddy section past Chesterwood Rd.
- 27-7. Past Hawthorn Road, we have several sections of bridges. Still pretty muddy in stretches and could use at least one more bridge in the area, also some boardwalk.
- 28-8. Trail past the Winnick Wood exit behind Tiger Lily and Pepper Grass Road also has several stretches of muddy area that could use boardwalks.

Gull Crest Trail - Zack Matzkin

- 29. Per John Planinsek, the whole map of this area needs to be cleaned up. The cross country trail ski trail should be marked in a different color than the hiking trail to help you navigate through that area.
- 30. Per John Planinsek, we need to decide if we want to make a portion of the cross country ski trail also part of the greenbelt trail(meaning we need to hang green trail signs on a single route thru the cross country ski trails) or rebuild the old green trail that used to go thru this area prior to the ski trail.
- 31. There are a few other areas around the football field where trails just seem to end on the maps where they should continue to a road or parking area.

Winnick Woods - Dena DeSena

- 32. The whole trail is in 90 percent great shape. One now can walk the whole trail without even looking for the "G" signage as the trail is so clearly warn down.
- 33. There are a few damp spots where it is a bit muddy. See map.
- 34. The only problem is the far bridge, closest to Cross Hill. It needs a ramp on the north side. It has a foot to a foot and half drop. When the bikes go over it, the ground becomes muddy and the hole is getting bigger.
- 35. The glass map box between Cross Hill and Winnick Woods is missing.

Whaleback Trail - Marti Blair

- 36. Bog bridge needed.
- 37. Flush flat stairs or switchback needed.
- 38. Would be great to have access down this lane to Great Pond boardwalk.

Dyer Woods - Maureen O'Meara

- 39. Trail entrance from Fernwood Rd/Red Oak Drive intersection is open and appears used, even though it extends through well-maintained yards. A greenbelt sign should be added to the trail entrance.
- 40. The trail extends south toward Woodland Ave. There is very little understory to define the trail location. Greenbelt signs should be added.
- 41. A large tree has come down on the trail.
- 42. The trail crosses the end of a finger of pond. The trail should probably be moved a bit more upland to drier land.
- 43. The trail crosses a pond finger where an impromptu branch bridge has been built. This should be replaced with a more formal boardwalk that does not dam up the water.
- 44. The high knolls have been set up with plywood ramps (bike?), a plywood fort and a zip line. The plywood is very worn and should probably be removed.
- 45. New trail entrance signage should be installed off Woodland Rd.
- 46. There is a hint of a trail that connects to Cliff Ave. The right-of-way of Cliff Ave should be survey located and the trail formally marked. This should include outreach to the neighbors at the end of Cliff Ave.
- 47. Bridge off Blueberry Rd in good condition but trail blocked by branches. Branches should be removed and trail sign added at road.
- 48. Minimal clearing and signage for trail link extending from end of Fernwood to Stone Dr.
- 49. Potential encroachments located with "E."

50. Trails should be GPS'd and added to Greenbelt Trail map. Pictures are available on request.

Wildwood Conservation easement - Garvan Donegan (May analysis per OSMP)

51. Wildwood Easement (WWE) looks to be accurately described, as seen in the *Open Space Management Plan*. Other notes also include, but are not limited to: WWE should continue to be seen as a high value piece of land inventory due to its *spatial connectivity* and *ecological heterogeneity*. There are areas w/ various small streams & dense wetlands & vegetation present, portions of the easement are much more accessible than others. WWE does contain areas that may represent potential assists for future Green Belt Growth (bowl nature of the easement, high elevation may be suitable for any future green belt or passive public use). Further, there were a number of trails clearly carved out by large body mammals, codifying that this area is in fact a very important & functional wildlife corridor for the town.

Only issue/concern was that off some *possible* tree cutting in the area (picture attached below) however 1) it looked like it may have been cut after falling 2). It was very near the beginning of the WWE, & I was unable to accurately evaluate if it was in fact in the easement or just outside.

I entered the Easement via Lions field (south)

Town Center Trail - Zack Matzkin

Scott Dyer Trail - Zack Matzkin

Spurwink Trail - Garvan Donegan

Leighton Farm Trail - Garvan Donegan

Two Lights Trail - John Marchewka