

Conservation Commission 2011 Workplan

The Conservation Commission proposes the following workplan for 2011:

1. Open Space Management Plan. The Conservation Commission also serves as the Open Space Management Committee, and joined by Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan, is preparing an Open Space Management Plan. The plan will be submitted to the Town Council by June 30, 2011.

2. Gull Crest. Gull Crest is the largest single parcel which includes greenbelt trails managed by the Conservation Commission. This year, the Conservation Commission would like to address the muddy access points to the Spurwink River Pedestrian Bridge. The southerly access is in Gull Crest and the northerly access is on Cape Elizabeth Land Trust land. The Commission has initiated discussions with the Land Trust to partner and improve both access points to the bridge.

In addition, the floating bridge located in Gull Crest also needs improvements to both ends of the bridge. The Commission will assess options and may be able to initiate a public/private partnership to generally improve the surface condition of greenbelt trails in Gull Crest.

3. Signage. The Commission would like to add and improve signage on Town greenbelt trails. Maps will also be added to trails.

4. Highland Trail. The Highland Trail is located in Broad Cove and extends to Two Lights Rd. Much of the trail is located in wetlands and is chronically overgrown. The Commission would like to make improvements to the trail surface, which may include replacement or expanded boardwalks.

5. Great Pond Boat Rack Monitoring. The boat racks at Great Pond have been very popular and there is more demand than room to store boats. The Commission will conduct spot monitoring of the boat racks this season to confirm that the existing boat slots are fully used before considering expansion of boat rack capacity.

6. Annual trail inspection. The Commission will conduct an inspection of every town greenbelt trail to determine maintenance and improvement needs (tentatively scheduled for April and May).