

Conservation Commission Minutes

September 11, 2012

Present: Garvan Donegan, Richard Bauman, John Marchewka, John Planinsek, Mitch Wacksman, Zach Matzkin, Marti Blair, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Tim DiNinno, A.J. DiNinno, Jim Tasse, Chris Denison

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Minutes of September 11, 2012 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Citizen Comments. Tim DiNinno would like to work on a project for the Conservation Commission as an Eagle Scout. He would like to get the project done this fall. It would need to be approved by the Boy Scouts first. The whole Troop 30 would help, the last Eagle Scout project was a large bridge in Robinson Woods. Tim's father A.J. explained that Tim would like to have a couple possible projects to consider. Tim would be responsible for all the organization and arranging manpower, as an Eagle Scout he needs to be a leader. The troop has about 25 scouts now, ranging from 11 to 16 years old, probably 10 or 15 at a time could come.

One possibility would be the boardwalk at Highland/Broad Cove, it's a good size and scope and there's a need for carrying in materials. Building signs would also be a possibility.

There's an existing boardwalk at Broad Cove that is approximately 200 feet in length, 4x4's with 2 inch planking. There's also a bridge around the pond that needs some work. Right now it's pretty narrow, 2 feet or 30 inches would be a good size. A site walk with Tim will be conducted when he can design the specifications of the project. He will bring the proposal back to the Commission next month, including cost estimates. We have been using Nature Wood from Rufus Deering.

3. Trail improvements - Dyer Woods. Cliff Avenue is partly paved, and partly a paper street. Notices were sent to the neighbors about tonight's meeting. There's an existing trail system in there, a new bridge was recently put in. The connection to Blueberry Road needs to be cleaned up. Another access is Fernwood, and two points on Woodland. It would be good to have an access from Cliff Ave. The right-of-way there needs to be turned back into a trail to give access. There are a lot of overgrown trees near the chainlink fence boundary. With a little bit of trimming, the trail can go there and the driveway won't be impacted.

Chris Denison said that the condominium association allows informal access to Cliff Ave. from Woodland.

There is also an access through 2 rows of cedar trees.

The abutter Mr. Tardy has not raised any objections to a trail access along the paper street. Every lot in the development has rights conveyed to use the paper street, and also rights are

conveyed to the town, called rights of incipient dedication. We would exercise the town's rights to the paper street, which are rights of passage, to install a trail. A paper street is a property line, so there are no setback requirements.

Mr. Dennison asked whether the condominium could utilize the paper street. That would depend on whether the condominium's lot was given rights to the paper street.

The proposed trail along the Cliff Ave. paper street would be to run along the fence line across from the Tardy property, then follow a natural contour.

The only concerns voiced by the condominium association were about security, which may mean increasing the lighting at night, and potentially closing the gate that the kids use now and letting them use the trail.

There is a need for one bog bridge section, the rest is clean-up.

Motion: To continue improving and maintaining the Dyer Woods trail system, including a connection through Cliff Ave., including signage.

Passed unanimously.

A work day was scheduled for November 29, 9:00 to noon, meet on Woodland close to Rosewood. Jim will flag the trail before then. No funding from the Conservation Commission is needed.

This is an RP-2 wetland. Any alterations to the pond would require a permit from the Planning Board.

4. Correspondence. An email was received from Maine Island Trail Association inviting participation in a meeting regarding extending the trail south and west from Portland. Maureen and Garvan will attend.

Our membership in the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions is up for renewal, at a cost of \$195.

Motion: To renew the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Commission's membership in the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions .

Passed unanimously.

5. Winnick Woods Bike Event. We were contacted by Jack Gundling of CycleMania regarding a bicycle demo event in Winnick Woods in late October. They do these frequently at Bradbury Mountain. They are lowkey events, nothing is sold there. People can try out road or mountain bikes. Maureen referred the request to the Commission because we have a standard process in the ordinance for this type of event. Parking at Winnick Woods would be the issue. Nothing further was received from the sponsors prior to this meeting.

6. Trail improvements for FY 2013. We have not done a great job this year in directing our Public Works trail employee, and the season is coming to an end. It would be good for him to install some trail signs. Maureen gave him the direction that the Two Lights trail needs attention, and asked him to check for trees down in Loveitt Field. She also asked them to fix the plexiglass at Winnick Woods, and replace gravel. Brendan would like to create a bark mulch path at Winnick Woods from the path over to the well, which is not deep. There is a tree down across the new board walk on the Gull Crest outer loop trail, accessed from the south. There is a massive tree down on the Whaleback trail. Mowing still needs to be done.

Joel Fitzpatrick, the developer of Eastman, wants to put the trails in this fall. We will be able to help with trail location. The Commission will then need to build its own trail connector from Winnick Woods. The mountain bike club may have money for materials.

Canterbury trail project – how to make it legal and how to work out the easements. We have a linear access and it would be great to have a connection to Mitchell Road. We would probably need to meet with the condominium association. Having a Greenbelt there would help control traffic, and keep people on the official trails. We have a legal easement that we could activate. If someone were to give the town an easement, they could use the value as a donation. There is an opportunity to have a reduction in tax assessment for having an easement on your property. We would like to review a subdivision plan.

Access to Loveitt Woods from Oakhurst – need to find public access from Oakhurst area. The Land Trust attempted to locate access, the Planner would contact Chris Franklin to find out the result of their efforts. We would like to review a subdivision plan and an aerial photo.

Water tower property near Turkey Hill Farm – Land Trust is looking at that area. It is identified as a growth area. If the two lots were developed, 40% of the land area would need to be set aside as open space.

Poor Farm – Maureen called DEP to ask if we need a permit for 200 feet of gravel on existing trail, and they said we can call it maintenance and don't need a permit.

Spurwink church – A trail to the Spurwink River would require working with the cemetery trustees.

We started the year on July 1 with \$7800.

Great Pond – the ramp access to the boardwalk needs to be shored up, the span in the middle bows down.

7. Trail walk: Wednesday, September 19 in Sherwood Forest at Olde Fort Road, 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Next meeting: October 9, 2012.

