

To: Maureen O'Meara

Date: Oct. 23, 2012

Re: Cape Elizabeth Horseback Riders Use of the Greenbelt Trail System

Dear Maureen:

I have read over the documentation provided for the most recent Conservation Committee Meeting. I thought that I would provide a status report of the intentions of the Horseback Riders of Cape Elizabeth, our use of the Greenbelt Trails since our last meeting, and a few updates and corrections of the notes regarding the same.

First, I apologize for being remiss in my communication to the Conservation Committee as I had a shift of priorities since our last meeting. There is a strong desire for the riding group to maintain communication, hence this memo to you.

To begin, I have read a few inaccuracies in the report from the last meeting attended by our group and wish to clarify as follows:

The Great Pond Trails are the most frequently used trails by a few Cape Elizabeth horseback riders (approx. 6 riders). There are two bridges that are used by riders, and the reconstruction of one bridge is our intention. Due to the bridge names, I believe that it was miscommunicated to the group which bridge we have intended to rebuild.

The correction is that the bridge constructed of Plastic Decking Material (with the small pond alongside) I believe is referred by you as the "Boy Scout Bridge". This bridge was analyzed by our structural engineer and deemed to be "extremely well constructed and able to support a horse without any issues". We had not intended to make any changes to this bridge, nor are we aware of any recent horse damage to this bridge per the report. We are very interested in having this clarified if there is some damage.

The second bridge along the trail past the canoe racks was the bridge that we were referring to as the "Boy Scout bridge" (hence the confusion). I am uncertain of the correct name used for this bridge, but going forward, we would like to begin the process of the reconstruction and hence, possibly renaming this bridge.

This bridge sits on a wet area and has been deemed to be unsafe for horse crossing. Although not fun, horses are currently able to traverse around this bridge in order to get to the trail loop.

The Bridge Project:

- Reconstruction Drawing – Forthcoming

- Reconstruction- anticipated taking approx. four hours with 3-4 workers. Bridge parts will be made in advance and a final assembly made on site using a few parts from the old bridge.
- Remaining parts to be left for Town removal/reuse (need to confirm)
- Funding – complete (provided by various members of the riding group)
- Timeframe: Nov 2012 or after drawing approval whichever is soonest

Going forward, our intentions to make repairs or to provide reconstruction has remained unchanged. There was very little if any, use of the Greenbelt trails this entire summer by any riders due to the insects and ticks. As fall has approached however, there are now a few riders who are beginning to venture out, predominantly using the Great Pond Trails. This has now prompted us to begin to expedite the repair of this single bridge.

As mentioned above, we do have an Engineering Sketch of the new bridge and wish to submit it for approval. Please let me know how you wish us to proceed.

Very best regards,

Robin Mills