

2001 Greenbelt Plan



Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt Plan

Prepared by the Conservation Commission

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Table of Contents

Summary	1
Vision and Goals Statement	3
Potential Trails Map	6
Greenbelt Trail priorities and recommendations	7
Public Forum meeting summary	12
Maintenance	15

Executive Summary

The first Greenbelt Plan was adopted by the Town of Cape Elizabeth in 1977. Nearly a quarter-century later, an integral component of the community's character has been a commitment to the preservation of open space. Current goals of preserving open space and expanding greenbelt trails are based upon previous efforts to:

- Conserve parcels of land from development;
- Restrict development on sensitive wetland areas; and
- Preserve public access and enjoyment of open space areas.

The Greenbelt Plan was updated in 1988 and is now 13 years old. Since its adoption, the Town has experienced changes which merit an update of the plan. Several new public and private projects, such as Dyer Pond, Runaway Farms, Stonegate, the Highlands, and Cross Hill Subdivision and the new Public Works Garage have occurred. These developments have been accompanied by increases in the amount of publicly held open space. In the case of residential subdivisions, over 200 acres of land have been donated as part of the development approval.

Since 1988, the Town's open space inventory has grown through land donations by individuals and Town purchases, often in partnership with the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust. Examples of open space parcels include the Larrea parcel (individual donation), Great Pond access, Broad Cove/Pine Ridge Rd, Hobstone Phase III, Town Farm and most recently Robinson Woods. Over 400 acres have been preserved since 1988 through donation/purchase.

With these achievements, the Conservation Commission decided that it was time to update the Greenbelt Plan. The Commission reviewed existing ordinances that regulate development and require open space preservation, including the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. They also reviewed open space plans prepared for other communities and resource information prepared by conservation organizations*.

The Conservation Commission reviewed the current open space inventory and the above materials. After several months of discussion, the Vision and Goals statement for the new Greenbelt Plan was developed. The Vision and Goals Statement promotes a town-wide greenbelt network, emphasizes maintenance and expands public information about trails through signage and maps. The Conservation Commission met in workshop with the Town Council to receive

comments on the draft Vision, and specific recommendations were requested by the Town Council.

*Open Space Conservation: Investing in Your Community's Economic Health,
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

While previous greenbelt plans emphasized open space preservation, the 2001 Greenbelt Plan shifts emphasis to improving public access through trail development. The plan includes a Potential trails map with 2 dozen proposed new trail linkages. The new trails are needed to implement the Vision of providing a greenbelt trail within walking distance to all Cape Elizabeth neighborhoods. The trails also improve public access to lands currently owned by the Town. Many of the potential trails also would be located on private property with the voluntary cooperation of the land owners. No public access trail will be placed on private property without the express permission of the property owner.

In order to involve property owners as early as possible in the greenbelt plan discussions, the Conservation Commission sponsored a public forum to discuss the Vision concept and the potential trails map. Owners of private property where trails were proposed received notice of the meeting. The forum was heavily attended and many property owners discussed their experience, concerns, and hopes for greenbelt trails in Cape Elizabeth. Most of the public forum attendees expressed support for the greenbelt concept and the Vision and Goals.

The 2001 Greenbelt Plan is the Conservation Commission's recommended priorities for greenbelt trail expansion and open space preservation. It includes several proposed trail link expansions with the top 5 priorities identified. It also recommends the continued preservation of open space, with specific recommendations for 2 parcels. The Conservation Commission looks forward to a continuing discussion with the Town Council and the residents of Cape Elizabeth.

**Top Five Recommendations
(Complete descriptions begin on page 7)**

1. Gull Crest Community Recreation Trail
2. St. Bartholomew's Easement Boardwalk
3. Private Robinson trails
4. Maxwell Farm/Spurwink Trail
5. Great Pond Trail

Vision and Goal Statement Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt Plan

Greenbelt

Trail: A blazed or trodden path, located in a natural area, of minimum sufficient width to be passable by a single individual, but may also include improved facilities such as bridges and boardwalks and, in more developed areas, sidewalks.

Vision: To establish a town-wide network of greenbelt trails by connecting the Town Center to important open spaces currently owned or to be acquired and all neighborhoods through a hub-and-spoke system. A greenbelt trail shall be located within a comfortable walking distance to all neighborhoods by creating, marking, mapping, and maintaining trails which provide legal public access, at least a portion of which will be handicapped accessible. Preserved open space and visually attractive areas of Cape Elizabeth will be made more accessible to the public by the greenbelt trails.

Goals:

1. Public Outreach. Conduct a Public Outreach Program that educates residents about the Greenbelt concept, builds consensus about open space and trail locations, and encourages the public to help maintain trails they use. Multiple outreach efforts, such as public notice mailings, newspaper articles and public forums, shall be conducted by the Town to allow for public input and inform the public about greenbelt trail resources.
 - 1.1 Prepare a plan depicting publicly accessible trails and distribute to Cape Elizabeth residents. The Greenbelt map shall be updated annually and widely distributed to Cape Elizabeth residents through the mail, with copies also available in locations such as the Town Hall and Library. Availability of the map shall be publicized on the Town web site as appropriate.
 - 1.2 The Town will be sensitive to the concerns of abutters as the Greenbelt Plan is implemented. Opposition to any kind of trail should not result in abandoning the trail as each greenbelt trail is part of a network designed to provide town-wide, pedestrian walkway facilities.

- 1.3 The design of trails shall take into consideration security and access for emergency services personnel. Trails must be adequately marked so that pedestrians will not become lost. The Conservation Commission will liaison with Town Public Safety personnel to discourage the public from straying off public paths onto private property.
 - 1.4 Where possible, the trail system shall be planned and built for handicapped accessibility. (Practical handicapped access will likely require parking for handicapped accessible vehicles close to the trail.) While the natural topography of a trail may make it inaccessible to the handicapped, any improvements to the trail, such as the construction of boardwalks and bridges, shall not increase the trail's inaccessibility to the handicapped.
 - 1.5 Trails will have a minimum environmental impact. Trails will be located in areas where the potential of soil erosion is low. If this is not possible, then construction of trails will include boardwalks and bridges needed to minimize erosion or other detrimental effects on the natural surroundings. In all cases, trails shall be located, and if possible relocated, to minimize impacts on the natural environment. Only the minimal improvements necessary to create a greenbelt trail will be installed. A more formal treatment of the trail surface such as the use of bark chips, stone dust or asphalt also may be considered.
2. Maintenance. Maintenance of trails shall be institutionalized with an annual maintenance plan to:

- Identify trail conditions with annual monitoring
- Remove fallen limbs and other debris
- Replace signage as needed
- Repair and/or replace bridges/boardwalks as necessary
- Fund improvements through the Capital Improvement Program

The Conservation Commission shall be responsible for monitoring trail conditions and prioritizing trails for maintenance. Conservation Commission members may also organize trail parties where volunteers perform trail work, however, the bulk of trail construction and maintenance field work shall be done by the Public Works Department and/or contracted out. The Conservation Commission shall be responsible for annually conducting a Greenbelt Program evaluation and submitting a report to the Town Council. A comprehensive update of the Greenbelt Plan shall be undertaken by the Conservation Commission every five years.

3. Trail Expansion. Priority for expansion of the greenbelt trail network shall be as follows:
 - 3.1. Prepare a plan depicting proposed/ conceptual trail locations. When new trails are to be constructed, public input will be sought so that trail design will minimize impacts on the abutters. The intent is to encourage participation from abutters in the design of the trail.

- 3.2. Construction of trails on open space already owned by the Town of Cape Elizabeth, including but not limited to:
 - Gull Crest Property
 - School Campus
 - Larrea Parcel
 - Cross Hill
 - Highlands
 - Stonegate
- 3.3. Construction of trails in conjunction with new development by the developer in consultation with the Conservation Commission. In reviewing a proposal for conservation of open space as part of a development, efforts shall be made to connect to nearby, publicly accessible open space.
- 3.4. Acquisition of land or pedestrian easements, with the cooperation of the land owner, for trails on private property which are heavily used by the public.
- 3.5. Completion of a greenbelt trail from Fort Williams to Crescent Beach, via the Town Center. Completion of this trail will require the completion of the Great Pond Trail.
- 3.6. Connection of isolated trail systems into an interconnected, town-wide, hub and spoke trail network.
- 3.7. Construction of trails in sections of town not currently served by a greenbelt trail with legal public access.
4. Partnerships. Maintain contact with Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, the Maine Farmland Trust, and other appropriate groups to take advantage of common goals that will facilitate development of the Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt.
5. Trail Locations. Trails shall be located to maximize access to and enjoyment of:
 - Open space in town, land trust, state or federal ownership;
 - Town Center;
 - Scenic areas identified in the Visual Resources Assessment Report, 1989;
 - land acquired in conjunction with new development proposals;
 - wildlife areas, including ponds and wetlands;

- farmland; and
- forest lands.

5.1 Trails will be well marked so users of the trails will be able to stay on the trails and reduce the impact on the adjacent natural surroundings.

Potential trails map

Possible Greenbelt Trail Expansions

Below is a description of the greenbelt trail links shown on the accompanying map. Proposed trail locations were influenced by the following assumptions:

- link existing public access lands;
- link all neighborhoods to nearby public access lands;
- use land that is undeveloped due to wetlands and construct boardwalks;
- use land that currently provides casual public access;
- use paper streets where the town has residual rights.

In many cases, proposed trails have been shown on privately owned property. No trail will be constructed by the Town on privately owned property without the express written permission of the property owner. All effected property owners have been notified of this process. The Conservation Commission would like to initiate discussions with private property owners to explore opportunities for greenbelt trails that meet the needs of both the Town and the property owner.

The location of proposed trails in most cases is conceptual only. If the trail is developed, a field assessment will be needed to site the trail. In siting the trail, factors such as avoiding the removal of trees and minimizing wetland locations would be considered.

It is the Conservation Commission's expectation that greenbelt trails will be used primarily by nearby, neighborhood residents. The Conservation Commission is attempting to make a proposal where all neighborhoods will be near a greenbelt trail. Because greenbelt trail opportunities will be nearby, parking lots are not proposed for any but the trails on large, town parcels.

Top 5 Greenbelt Trail Projects (in order of priority)

12. There was overwhelming support at the public forum for the creation of a community recreation trail facility on the Gull Crest lands off Spurwink Ave. The community recreation trail facility would be professionally designed to accommodate competitive cross country skiing and running. The trails could also be widely used by Cape residents in all seasons for a variety of uses, although some limits would be needed to preserve the trails for cross country skiing in the winter. The Conservation Commission supports the community recreation trail concept and

recommends that a task force promptly be established to conduct a feasibility study that further evaluates the concept, cost, environmental impact and facility design.

Two different options are depicted for connecting the trails and fields at the Gull Crest Property to the southwest with the school and Town Center. The west link option represents construction of a low-level bridge across the narrowest portion of the Spurwink Marsh (roughly 474') connecting the northerly end of the transfer station to the Town Center trail located just south of the Chancellor Gardens facility. The east option is to build roughly 1,000+ of boardwalk from the Transfer station through wetlands to the rear of the school property. The Conservation Commission recommends that these and any other options be explored as part of the professional design of the community recreation trail at Gull Crest.

23. The proposed trail extends from the Highlands trail over the existing St. Bartholomew's Church easement and the Spinnaker Heights Subdivision pedestrian easement to Two Lights Rd. The Spinnaker Heights easement dates back to the 1980's and was created as part of a subdivision approval. The Highlands easement is part of the Highlands Subdivision approval in the 1990's. The St. Bart's easement was granted to the town in 1999 and, after 5 years, will apply only to the area of the boardwalk. If no boardwalk is constructed, the easement will be lost.
10. This is an extensive, existing trail system to which only casual public access is available. The property owners have tolerated public use, which could end at any time. The trails extend from Robinson Woods, recently acquired by the Land Trust, south toward the Town Center. Property owners include the Robinson Family, Eric Cianchette and the Methodist Church.
7. This north/south proposed trail creates a trail system to two neighborhoods that do not currently have public access opportunities. The trail builds upon town-owned land to the north located on State Ave to a Land Trust easement on Spurwink Ave and town-owned land on Eastman Rd. The land from State Ave to the easement is primarily farm fields owned by the Maxwell Family. South of the easement, an abutter has indicated a willingness to also provide an easement. The land south of that is restricted from development due to wetlands and connects to Pleasant Ave. South of Pleasant Ave, a trail should extend to town-owned

land located on Eastman Rd. From this point, a trail should be located that connects to the Larrea parcel trail system.

16. The existing Great Pond public access trail extends from Rt 77 to Alewife Brook and this link would complete the connection from the brook to Fenway Rd. A trail currently exists from the brook to Fenway, however, there is no legal public access. There is a pedestrian easement owned by the Town, but construction of a trail in this easement would require approximately 1,500' feet of boardwalk construction due to wetlands.

**Other Recommended Greenbelt Trail Projects
(not in order of priority)**

1. This proposed trail extends from Woodland Rd to Forest Rd. It connects a town-owned easement located north of Woodland Rd to land owned by the Town at the end of Forest Rd. The route of this trail is mostly wetland.
2. The proposed trail connects to an existing trail on a paper street located south of Ocean View Rd. This trail extends across a 12 acre vacant parcel owned by an abutting lot owner. The trail then connects to the rear of the Cape Woods Condominiums (at the location of the condominium owners private trail) and to town-owned open space on Abaco Rd and a pedestrian easement to Oakhurst Rd.
3. This trail exists to some extent now but there are no public access rights. The trail begins south of Oakhurst Rd and heads both east to Shore Rd and south to connect to the Stonegate lands. The Town owns a partial interest in the land west of Locksley Rd.
4. Most of the land on the parcel west of Mitchell Rd is wetland, including the area where the trail is suggested. The trail would extend to Town-owned land on Spurwink Ave southwesterly to town-owned land located at the end of South Street, providing the only trail links to these neighborhoods. Heading south, a trail is proposed through a forested area which connects with a town-owned park area located off McAuley Rd on the way to the existing Canterbury on the Cape pedestrian easement. The Canterbury on the Cape pedestrian easement connects to the existing Hobstone trails. This trail link provides a unique greenbelt trail experience from Spurwink Ave at the South Portland boundary to the southern end of Mitchell Rd.
5. This trail would take advantage of the heavily wooded conservation land owned by the Canterbury on the Cape Condominium Association. A connection would be made to the town-owned land on Columbus Rd, the Wedgewood Rd paper street, and the pedestrian easement running north/south on the Canterbury Condominiums land.
6. This trail link is suggested by the Conservation Commission to connect the expanding north/south trail and Hobstone to Route 77 and the Purpoodock Country Club. The Country Club is known to allow the

public to cross country ski in the winter and the Town may want to discuss with the Country Club a seasonal public access easement.

8. This is the Larrea parcel owned by the Town which the Conservation Commission has identified for master planning. The Town has completed a boundary and wetland survey and the Conservation Commission will begin the master planning proposal upon completion of the Greenbelt Plan.
9. This would be a very short trail that links town-owned easement land to the Purpoodock Club. (See #6 above)
11. There are currently trails located in this area which are available for use by the Brentwood Association. Access to the trails could be opened up to the public, providing a link to town-owned Lions' Field.
13. This link across a single parcel would connect the Gull Crest facility with Runaway Farms, an existing open space trail system owned by the Land Trust. The area of the trail is most likely wetland.
14. This link would connect the Fowler Rd/Susan Rd neighborhoods with Runaway Farms.
15. This connection is recommended by Conservation Commission members to link two premier open space areas, Gull Crest and Great Pond. For this greenbelt connection, the Conservation Commission suggests that it may be appropriate for the Town to purchase a property on the north side of Fowler Rd when it is offered for sale. The Town could then establish a pedestrian easement on the side of the property and then resell it to a new owner with the easement in place.
17. This trail would connect existing town-owned land and the Old Ocean House Rd neighborhood to Great Pond.
18. This link is reported to be an existing trail providing casual public access to Great Pond. This trail is located across Route 77 from town owned land recently deeded as part of the Whaleback Ridge subdivision approval. The subdivision donation provides a link to the Shore Acres neighborhood.
19. This is a proposed connection from the Wentworth Rd neighborhood to Great Pond. Informal trails and/or farm roads may currently provide access to Great Pond from this area.

20. This trail would take advantage of paper streets and the undeveloped Turkey Hill Farm property to provide a trail connection to the Whaleback Ridge Subdivision land donation across from Old Ocean House Rd. It also includes a pedestrian connection between the Shore Acres and Broad Cove neighborhoods which is tentatively shown from Pilot Point Rd to Ledgewood Lane.
22. This trail section creates a trail loop in the Broad Cove neighborhood by utilizing the existing Highlands Trail, the town owned land off Pine Ridge Rd, and the predominantly wetland area at the east side of the St. Bartholomew's Church lot.
24. This is an area (rather than a conceptual trail location) identified by the Conservation Commission as needing further study to identify greenbelt connections. This a densely developed neighborhood with few opportunities for greenbelt connections. Consequently, the opportunities that remain, such as paper streets, are crucial to achieving the goal of linking this neighborhood to the townwide greenbelt network. There is an existing trail on the paper street portion of Waverly Rd extending across a drainage swale to Stonybrook Rd.
25. These trails are part of the Cross Hill Subdivision approval and are under construction as the subdivision is built. Construction of trails is supervised by the Town and the responsibility of the developer.

**Open Space Recommendations
(not in order of priority)**

1. The Conservation Commission recommends that the Jordan land located on the south side of Wells Rd, across from 21 Wells Rd, be preserved. The parcel is highly ranked in the Visual Assessment Study as significantly contributing to the Town's rural character. Preservation of the parcel should provide for the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes.
2. The second parcel of land identified by the Conservation Commission is located on Two Lights Rd and is currently used to grow strawberries and other crops. This land also contributes to the rural character of the Town and should be preserved for continued agricultural uses.

3. In addition to the specific parcels identified above, the Conservation Commission encourages the purchase and/or preservation of other open space lands in Cape Elizabeth as opportunities arise.

Public Forum Minutes - March 21, 2001

The forum was held in the Town Council chamber and was very well attended by approximately 200 people.

Dan Chase, Chairman, started the meeting at 7:00 PM with an opening statement. The Conservation Commission is updating the Greenbelt Plan. We held one workshop with the Town Council and now need public comment. The first Greenbelt Plan was published in 1977 and emphasized open space preservation. A second plan was published in 1988 when emphasis shifted more to trail establishment, especially trails from Ft. Williams to Crescent Beach. Recently, open space preservation has been assumed by the CE Land Trust. Also, open space has been obtained from new subdivisions. As a result, the Conservation Commission has concentrated recently on trail development with more of a hub and spoke design. Another major activity has been trail maintenance.

Nancy Irving reviewed the Vision and Goals. She emphasized legal access to the trails, trail maintenance and trail marking. She then read the Trail and Vision part of the Statement and concluded that this Public Forum is an important part of the Goals.

Trail Descriptions

Dan Chase - Areas 1,2 and 3. Many trails in North Cape are short, disconnected and over private land. They were probably made by local children. We would like to link trails to each other and to the center of town, especially near Mitchell Rd., Hobstone and Canterbury.

Mike Duddy - Area 4. This is primarily west Cape where there is still open space. We should plan trails as the land is developed. A potential trail between Eastman and State Roads is desirable. He pointed out the Larrea land and CELT easement on the Dyer-Hutchinson Farm property where trails exist. Also, trails are being developed in the Cross Hill subdivision. A large trail network could be established in this area. He then mentioned the town land off Spurwink (Town Farm) where the trail needs more development. He concluded by mentioning the Brentwood trails, which are maintained by the association.

Mike Pulsifer - Area 5. These are trails near the town center. He outlined the Chancellor Garden, Runaway Farm and Great Pond trails. There are existing trails but more may be needed. Access across Fowler Road is a problem.

Dave Sterling - Areas 6 and 7. This is South Cape. We would like to complete the trail around Great Pond but much is private land. Access across Rt. 77 and Old Ocean House Rd. is needed. The waterfront area at Surfside would make a great scenic trail but ownership is uncertain. In the Broadcove area, we would like to connect Pine Ridge to Two Lights Rd. He mentioned the Maxwell land as very desirable open space and finally the Highland trail.

Public Comments

The meeting was then opened up for public comment. Maureen asked that all attendees sign in on the paper she passed around. Individuals were requested to state their name before speaking and use the microphone.

Peter Eastman of Turkey Hill Farm asked about who has the liability for trail use and is there any effect on taxes. He suggested that the map be projected for better visibility. Maureen said that the map is still a draft and we'll try to get maps published when it's completed. The town assumes liability. The tax issue should be addressed by the tax assessor.

Bruce Dunfey of Algonquin Rd. said the land on Surfside (area #21) was deeded to Ocean View Association, of which he is president, in 1990 from the Shore Acres Land Co. They do not want that land designated as a trail for the general public. It is to be used by local area residents only.

Stewart Wooden of Pilot Point Rd. supported Mr. Dunfey's statement.

Ogden Williams strongly supported the trails, especially in Gull Crest. He proposed the development of recreation and fitness trails that can also be used for competitive running and cross-country skiing. The trails would be used by both the student teams and the public. The trails should be 10-12 feet wide and have suitable surfaces such as wood chips or stone dust. He mentioned that Gray and especially Cumberland have excellent trails.

Annie Upton, a teacher and coach, spoke in support of Ogden's proposal and said that the Nordic ski team needs trails to host meets, which they cannot do now.

Mary Beth Richardson of Valley Rd. and CELT supported the trails and said the trails near the Maxwell property, area #7, are great for skiing.

Mary Ann Doss, ski and cross country coach at the High School, said we really need these trails as training on roads is dangerous. The school also needs a much better cross-country course than now available.

Bo Norris of Brentwood supports trails and Ogden's proposal but brought up the parking issue. He said that multiple use trails in the Gull Crest area would be very good.

Dave Wing of Oakhurst Rd. claimed the parking issue can be solved by leaving the car at home.

Two students from the 2nd and 4th grades spoke in favor of the trails.

Kim Moody of Lawson Rd. strongly supported the trails. She requested that supporters stand and most people did.

Ellen Knight of Pilot Point Rd. said the Surfside area is very dangerous over the rocks and there is no parking.

M. Barton, coach of the Middle School Nordic ski team, said we really need ski trails and the Gull Crest area has good access and parking.

Norine O'Connor of Mitchell Rd. supported the trails on Gull Crest and said wetlands make for good field trips for students. They need trails for access.

Andy Carr, off Shore Rd. behind the Post Office, said many property owners may not want trails over their land. Dirt bikes and ATV's are a problem. Individual trail useage may be fine but he doesn't want "legal access".

Douglas Miller of Ocean View Rd. has an "unofficial" trail over his property. He thinks the Conservation Commission should concentrate on the Gull Crest trails and utilize volunteers.

Diane Shevenell of Fowler Rd. asked if the Commission has considered motorized vehicles, such as skimobiles, which are a real problem at night.

A resident of High Bluff Rd. had no specific concerns but thinks the Commission should focus on neighborhood access to the trails.

Bob Danielson of Reef Rd. and CELT supported Ogden's proposal. CELT has over 400 acres of land which needs more trail development.

Mark Sweeney of Broad Cove Rd. was very much against any trails over his property because people have abused his property.

Peggy Farnsworth of Wentworth Rd. was opposed to any public access to trails on area #19.

Sara McColl of Avon Rd. supported Ogden's proposal.

A resident of North Cape said local residents should keep their trails cleaned up.

Joe Schenkel, president of CELT, offered assistance on trail projects.

Suzy Kist of CELT emphasized CELT's support of the trails program.

Chris Franklin of Oakhurst uses trails and asked people to keep them clean.

Richard Haupt of Hobstone said local trails have been developed without problems. He mentioned restrictions and ATV's and said we should be aware of restrictions now in effect.

John Upton, High School Nordic coach, said that multi-use trails need professional design. He also asked how to focus the energy of the people. He hoped that the Gull Crest trails receive top priority this year.

Frank Strout of Shore Rd. and CELT supported the trails and suggested that physical education students could use trails.

Mark Gaylos of Pilot Point Rd. said the Surfside area would make a very poor trail and is dangerous. He supports trails but not here.

Richard Bryant supported Ogden's proposal as well as trails on town land in North Cape.

Fran McCardle of Broad Cove Rd. complained about snowmobiles and the problems of developing trails over bad (wet) land, such as the Highland trail.

Judy Klein supported the Nordic ski coach for trails on Gull Crest.

Matt Flynn of Brentwood likes running and skiing and supported Ogden's proposal because of the danger of running on roads.

After all had spoken, Maureen said that the original trail concept was to connect Ft. Williams with Crescent Beach. Only a few (5-7) parcels are left to complete this trail. Now, what about the neighborhood hub and spoke concept? The community has a choice to make. It can support trails that link up to all the neighborhoods, in which case most people will probably walk the trails in their neighborhood and parking areas will not be needed. Alternately, closed loop, trails can be developed on the large, town owned lots and parking lots will be needed. She asked people to think about this.

Mike Duddy asked how we should prioritize the trails. Does the Commission have community support to connect trails? Also, he emphasized that nobody is proposing to use private property against the owner's wishes. Dan concluded the Forum by mentioning the parking and ATV issues again. He thanked everyone for their comments and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by John Herrick

Maintenance

The Vision and Goal Statement recognizes the need to perform annual maintenance of the Town's greenbelt trail network. The Conservation Commission recommends that a program to annually assess trail conditions and perform maintenance should replace the current ad hoc trail work projects.

To this end, the Commission is recommending that each member be responsible for preparing an annual trail conditions report. These reports would then be assembled into a maintenance plan for the year. The Conservation Commission and its staff will work with the Public Works Department to perform the heavy trail maintenance work. Trail work parties organized by the Conservation Commission in conjunction with adjacent neighborhoods and volunteer labor would be used to accomplish more routine maintenance.

To begin the maintenance program this year, Conservation Commission members have prepared trail condition reports for the trails currently located on Town land. The reports and maps follow.

Memorandum

To: Conservation Commission
From: Kevin Cameron
Re: Stonegate Trail Maintenance Report
Date: May 31, 2001

See attached map for locations.

1. Repair Bridge
2. Relocate trail
3. Relocate trail
4. Relocate trail
5. Divert water on trail
6. Place bollard
7. New Bridge
8. Move trail off wet area or place long boardwalk

To: Conservation Commission
From: John Herrick
Subject: Trail Review; Chancellor Gardens
Date: 5/15/01

This trail goes between the High School and Starboard Drive with a side trail to Scott Dyer Road. The main trail is over a sewer easement and is obviously used by many people. It is in excellent shape and needs no improvement. However, the start of the trail at the High School and Starboard Drive should be marked and a couple of signs along the way would help. The side trail to Scott Dyer Road is OK now, although the grass should be mowed later. A marker is needed on Scott Dyer Road beside the entrance to Chancellor Gardens and signs are needed to mark the trail as it is somewhat uncertain, especially near the road.

I looked for a way to connect this trail to Gull Crest. The boardwalk will be a major undertaking over the marsh. There appears to be a trail connecting the High School at the corner of the lacross field across the marsh to a wooded area, which may be part of Gull Crest. I saw a triangular, yellow sign on a tree at the far end of the trail. Although the trail looked passable now, I suspect that it gets very wet during rainy times. I suggest that we take a look at these potential trail connections before making any recommendations.

May 23, 2001

Cape Elizabeth Conservation Commission
Town Hall
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

HIGHLANDS TRAIL MAINTENANCE INVENTORY

The Highland Trail begins at the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and Roundabout Lane in Borad Cove. The trail proceeds along a paper street and sewer right of way until the paper street turns north to connect with Broad Cove Road. About one third (1/3) of the paper street is on this right of way. Highland Trail then continues behind the development on Cove View Road and Heritage Court. The trail ends short of Two Lights Road in a rather damp area.

All references are from Pine Ridge end of the trail. Things that should be done:

1. The first one third (1/3) of the trail is in good shape with only a few bushes to cut.
2. Where the paper street turns north and the trail continues west there was a trail sign post, which is hauled out and needs to be reset. Maybe some sackcrete would hold it in place better.
3. From the point mentioned in item two (2) to the end of the trail there needs to be much brushed trimmed and fallen bushes picked up.
4. There are a couple of locations on the trail where boardwalks would make it easier to traverse the area.
5. At a spot about one half (1/2) way on the trail descends a steep bank. Maybe three (3) or four (4) large flat boards could be placed to make it easier walking.\
6. Near the end of the trail there is a currently dry stream bed that might require a wood foot bridge.
7. Some signs could be placed at a couple of locations.

All of the above items could be completed by four (4) people in one day, except 2 capital projects.

Respectfully submitted 05/23/01

David I. Sterling,
Commission member

Report on the Spurwink Trail in Cape Elizabeth

The Spurwink Trail needs a lot of work – clearing brush and marking the trail. There are some places that the trail needs to be moved to higher ground or a boardwalk needs to be built. There were some very muddy spots even though it hasn't rained for a long time. The trail is very hard to find since neither end is marked. We started near one end by the cemetery and found it only because I had some idea where it was from my walk with Maureen and John last spring. There were some markers along the way but this could be improved. The bridge also needs work. Although it is now passable, it probably won't hold up for long.