

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cape Elizabeth Conservation Commission
FROM: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner
DATE: January 9, 2014
SUBJECT: 2014 Priorities/Workplan

Introduction

At the December, 2013 meeting, the Conservation Commission indicated their intent to discuss priority setting for 2014. The beginning of a new year and the completion of the Greenbelt Plan both support a priority setting exercise as the next step. In an effort to assist the Conservation Commission, below is a summary of projects and ideas that have been raised over the last few months.

Possible 2014 Workplan items

- Color coding of multiple trails on an individual parcel. The Conservation Commission has periodically mentioned using a color system to distinguish between multiple trails on a single parcel. This would help the public navigate the trails. Trails that may benefit from color coding include: Stonegate, Winnick Woods, and Gull Crest. Enclosed are sample color coding signs that can be created in-house and posted on the trails. The Town Greenbelt Trails map would also be revised to show trails in different colors.
- 2013 Trails Report. Seasonal trail employee Brendan Sweeney has included recommendations for improvements to trails. The report is included in the meeting package.
- Other trail improvements. The Conservation Commission has other trail improvements which have been discussed and may be partially completed. Recent projects include Vinnie's Trail, Dyer Woods trail gravel, Winnick Woods trail expansion and possible additional work in Stonegate.
- Invasive Species. The Conservation Commission has been approached by two residents with concerns and suggestions for work to combat invasive species. The Conservation Commission has a history of partnering with other groups to combat invasives. Examples include the beetle program to eliminate purple loosestrife and work last Spring to remove Japanese Barberry from Stonegate. The most recent suggestions include removing bittersweet from the Town Farm and from Winnick Woods.

- Greenbelt Plan priorities. The Town Council approved the Greenbelt Plan on January 6, 2014 and the Conservation Commission has identified potential trail # 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

This list is meant as a summary of recent items raised by the Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission members should be prepared to identify all potential projects for 2014 and then to select top priorities for further action.