

Conservation Commission Minutes
DRAFT April 8, 2014

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Zach Matzkin, Richard Bauman, John Planinsek, Jim Tasse, Marti Blair, Town Council Liaison Molly MacAuslan, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Suzanne McGinn, Jay Cox

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Suzanne McGinn of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust stated that Cape Elizabeth Middle School would like to have some projects that middle school students could help with. The Town Planner and Conservation Commission suggested four possibilities:

- working at Trout Brook
- carrying materials to trail construction sites
- removing invasive species
- trail maintenance, for example at Gull Crest

It would be helpful if there were a contact for each project, who the teacher could get in touch with.

The Planner will draft a list of projects to be forwarded to Ms. McGinn.

2. The minutes of March 11, 2014 were approved unanimously.

3. Trail signage. There was discussion at the last meeting of color-coding the trails in Winnick Woods. Part of one of these trails crosses land owned by Jay Cox. Mr. Cox was present and was asked about participating in the "color program." He stated that when people cross onto his property, two things are important to him: (1) people know they are now on private land; (2) signs on his property indicate Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, not Greenbelt.

Mr. Cox suggested that he could have CELT trail signs made up that correspond in color to the Conservation Commission's signs. The Commission offered to order extra signs and give them to Mr. Cox for use on his property. He prefers green.

The Planner demonstrated some different options for marking trail and intersections. Locations where trails on private land connect with Greenbelt trails need to be indicated as private, "Limit of Town Property." Locator maps can be posted at marked intersections.

Motion: To authorize the Town Planner to order colored trail signs for Winnick Woods.
Passed unanimously

4. Removal of invasive species. Mr. Cox has been removing invasive bittersweet from his property and also town property at Winnick Woods. He requested some help with this project. He does this in spring and fall. He will contact the Planner to let the Commission know when he is going to be removing invasives.

5. Trail maps. The Planner demonstrated the possibilities for designing trail maps. There will be no property lines shown. There will be roads and road names, but not dark. The background could be either an aerial or a topo contour. Intersection markers will be small numbers, offset. The Greenbelt property will be filled in one background color, CELT property with trail will be filled in another background color. If two color trails overlap, both will be shown. For the next meeting, the Planner will mock up some possible map designs.

There should be a statement on the maps regarding built and maintained by Cape Elizabeth Conservation Commission.

6. Trail closures. Currently, we are planning to close certain trails to bicycles and horses due to wet trail conditions. An equilateral triangle will be used. Language for signs was discussed. In order to close trails, we must make a recommendation to the Town Manager.

Motion: To recommend to the Town Manager that all Greenbelt trails in Cape Elizabeth be closed to bicycles and horseback riders effective April 9, 2014 until further notice.

Passed unanimously

7. 2014 Greenbelt Plan priorities. The Town Center trail surface needs to be hardened. The Public Works Director is willing to walk this trail with us at the end of a weekday.

8. Trails maintenance. Brendan Sweeney is coming back, starting the week of April 21. The Public Works Director would like to have bikes walked when crossing the easement on his property at all times.

9. Great Pond boat rack. 85 applications were received and 32 permits were issued this year.

10. Trail of the Month article. The Planner will re-work a past article.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting: May 13, 2014 at 5:00 at Winnick Woods trailhead at the kiosk