

Conservation Commission Minutes
December 8, 2015

Present: Zach Matzkin, Garvan Donegan, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Marti Blair,
Planner Maureen O'Meara

Guests: Jessie Timberlake, Sheila Wellehan, Suzanne McGinn

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

1. The minutes of November 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.
2. Citizen comments. Sheila Wellehan spoke on behalf of the dog owners group, who are willing to help with projects and encourage the continuation of allowing dogs on trails. She mentioned that the Animal Control Officer for Cape Elizabeth is shared with South Portland, and is not always able to be quickly responsive to complaints. She suggests that a policy be developed allowing the town to deal with problems, rather than having it become a public safety official issue.

The Planner shared a proposed handout to give to people who register their dogs, which they do at year-end.

Motion: To approve a brochure regarding courtesy on trails by dog walkers, for inclusion with renewing dog licenses.

Passed unanimously

3. Cross-town trail signs. Suzanne McGinn of Cape Elizabeth Land Trust was present to discuss the installation of the new cross-town trail signs. She suggested that we need to communicate the initiative with the public. There is an opportunity to do some outreach and education around this. The Land Trust leads a walk in the fall and in the spring. The roads will need to be painted, which is better done in the spring. A potential event could be scheduled around National Trails Day in early June. The Land Trust adjusted the trail route in Gullcrest and in Stonegate based on the recommendations of the Conservation Commission, which is reflected on the new map.
4. Great Pond boat rack. The deadline for boat removal is this weekend, and the owners of the two remaining boats were notified. Suzanne McGinn mentioned that the Land Trust is in the process of removing plastic platforms from their land that were apparently placed there for snowmobile access.
5. Gull Crest Outer Loop improvements. The Chair of the Conservation Commission is planning to go out to the trail and mark the area for trail widening and extension.
6. Pollack Creek to the Spurwink River. Sebago Technics has submitted a status report. A wetlands expert visited the site and identified the line between saltwater wetland and freshwater wetland. Getting a permit for freshwater is much easier than for saltwater. A meeting will be scheduled with DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers to find out about permitting, including replacing the current bridge.

7. Tiger Lily Lane and Leighton Farm Road, Winnick Woods blue trail. There is a need for an improved bridge crossing over the stream at this site. The former bridge got pushed off.

8. Canterbury Trail/ Cottage Brook to Ocean House Road. The landowner expressed concern that the land is an RP1 wetland. The Planner advised that a trail is allowed in an RP1 wetland. The Planner will pursue a meeting for a preliminary discussion.

9. Dyer Woods to Oakhurst. The Planner detailed a potential course for a trail connecting Dyer Woods to Oakhurst. Investigation will continue.

10. Trout Brook section. The Planner will contact the South Portland Land Trust regarding their potential plans for this area.

11. Old Mill Road. The Planning Board had a site walk in this area. The Planner mentioned the idea of a license for access along Alewives Brook.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting: January 12, 2016