

**DRAFT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Cape Elizabeth Town Council
FROM: Conservation Commission
DATE: June 15, 2016
SUBJECT: Town Council Goals

Introduction

The Town Council forwarded three goals to the Conservation Commission to report back on. The Conservation Commission discussed the goals at four meetings. The commission's recommendations are summarized below.

Goal: Review all uses of the greenbelt trail

The "uses" goal was discussed at the March 7, 2016 meeting. The Conservation Commission referenced the Management of Greenbelt and Open Space Plan adopted by the Town Council in May, 2012. This plan was prepared by the Open Space Management Committee, comprised of the Conservation Commission and Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan. The committee met 19 times and held 2 public forums.

The management plan includes an inventory of all town owned open space. Each open space was classified into 1 of 5 management groups for the purpose of establishing common management policies for similar properties. Pages 11 and 12 include a Uses Chart designating uses allowed on each open space.

The chart and report has been updated with open spaces added since Town Council adoption. The Conservation Commission reviewed the chart, including the additional properties.

Recommendation: The Conservation Commission voted unanimously to re-affirm the summary of uses established in the Management of Greenbelt and Open Space Plan.

Goal: Consider allowing horses to use the greenbelt trails at all times

The "horses" goal was discussed at the April 12, 2016 meeting. Invitations were sent to everyone in the horseback riding community who had participated in discussions in 2011-2012¹. One member of the horseback riding community attended the Conservation Commission meeting. She supports a trail suitable for horses that connects to Gull Crest from Fowler Rd.

¹In 2012, the horseback riding community had identified greenbelt trails they used and provided an evaluation by a civil engineer of the ability of structures to support horses. Almost all the structures were not built to support horses. The Conservation Commission encouraged the group to propose structural improvements for the Conservation Commission to consider. Once boardwalk in Great Pond was upgraded as part of this effort.

Recommendation: The Commission would like to work on an inventory of the trails used by horses including areas needing hardening and bridging improvements, and also look at expanding access between Starboard and the Town Farm and between Great Pond and the south end of Gull Crest.

Goal: Receive a report showing missing links in the cross town greenbelt trail and detailing other significant links to neighborhoods

The "missing links" goal was discussed at the May 10th and June 14th meetings. The Conservation Commission based its review on the 2013 Greenbelt Plan priorities and the 2015 Project Priorities designated by the Conservation Commission.

Recommendation: