

Conservation Committee Minutes **DRAFT**
February 14, 2017

Present: Marti Blair, Mark Fleming, Jeremy Gabrielson, Zach Matzkin, Robert Petitt, Jim Tasse, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara (staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Chair Tasse noted that he received an email from Emily Helliesen regarding Maxwell Woods which he will forward to staff for circulation to the Conservation Committee.
2. Minutes. Mr. Tasse noted comments from Mr. Kourakas regarding the December, 2016 meeting minutes, which have already been approved, so the committee proposed no change to those minutes. The January 10, 2017 minutes were amended and approved.
3. Paper Street Technical Study. Steve Harding, Town Engineer and from Sebago Technics, introduced himself and presented plans that have been developed for Surfside Ave and Lighthouse Point Rd. The plans were prepared as described in the Town's contract with Sebago Technics and use survey data, and aerial imaging.

Mr. Harding explained that the Lighthouse Point Rd paper street is a sloping mowed lawn area with a cluster of landscaping. It is possible to put a path on the mowed path and avoid the landscaping. The path could be 2' wide, but there is room for a more formal path if desired. Mr. Tasse clarified that this is a study to see if a trail is possible, not a plan to install a trail.

Ms. Blair asked about the length of the paper street and Mr. Harding replied 40' by 105' long. There are driveways extending off the paved portion which are in the paper street. Mr. Gabrielson asked if the trails shown on the Coast Guard land were identified using aerials and Mr. Harding confirmed they were.

Mr. Harding presented plans showing Surfside Ave and Atlantic Place. The plans included improvements such as benches and a garden. Most of the paper street is mowed grass now and all is walkable. On Atlantic Place, a trail could work around a playset, and garden. In both locations, there is room for a trail and the plans showed a conceptual trail alignment (blue line).

Mr. Harding said that his team would need to revisit the site to collect more information on possible wetlands in April (during some part of the growing season) and then he would work with state agencies to identify permitting requirements. (Heavy snow has made field work impractical) He explained possible jurisdiction to review by the DEP, and Army Corps of Engineers. Committee members asked about shoreland zoning setbacks, and clarifying permitting steps. Mr. Harding said that was within the scope of work within the contract and he would be providing that information. Mr. Fleming asked about a plastic irrigation line and the sections seaward of Surfside Ave? Mr. Harding confirmed that property pins were located as part of the boundary survey. Mr. Gabrielson asked about the vertical datum on the lidar data. Mr. Harding agreed to add information and to add the Normal High Water Line. The committee agreed to review the report at the May meeting.

The Town Council referral set a deadline of six months, which is March 5th. The Conservation Committee agreed to request an extension to June 30th to complete the project and provide a report to the Town Council.

Public Comment

Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to 15 minutes of public comment on this item.

A gentleman asked how the DEP would be consulted, because its response on permitting will depend on the size of the project. Mr. Harding explained that he would not be applying for a permit, but providing an assessment of likely permits needed, cost of the permit and sense of whether the permit would be issued. Mr. Tasse said that the permit inquiries would be for a 2' wide, minimal trail.

Mary Costigan, representing the Goldmans at 27 Pilot Point Rd - She noted a previously submitted letter and would like the DEP review to also include the costs associated with stormwater management.

Mr. Harding responded that his review with the DEP would be mostly environmental rather than stormwater. The report would include some cost assessment for maintenance and his sense is that this would not be a project with substantial infrastructure.

Mr. Tasse noted that the town and Mr. Harding had prepared specifications for other trails and they usually are handled by sheet flow where the environmental sustainability is high and maintenance requirements are low.

Stewart Wooden, 33 Pilot Pt Rd - He asked how far to the east on Surfside was the boundary survey. Because the likelihood of installing new trails in that area is low due to the presence of the gravel road and existing trails, omitting survey level quality information was a budget decision.

Sheila Mayberry, 30 Trundy Rd - She asked what is the width of Surfside Ave?

Deb Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - She supports the Lighthouse Point Rd work. The Coast Guard owns the land now and we should keep it for potential access. She lives in Shore Acres and town assets belong to all citizens. Surfside has been subsidized for years and the abutters have had tax discounts.

Chuck Rzeszutko, 6 Waumbek Rd - The Surfside oceanfront is total unrestricted access on the town waterfront where a photographer can go before sunrise without breaking the time constraints in the law.

Public comment was closed.

The committee discussed how to integrate public comment into the technical feasibility report. He suggested that the report be organized with a letter from the Conservation Committee, an Executive Summary and the various sections of the report. The committee discussed the contents of the Executive Summary, which should be about 1 page in length and state whether the trails are technically feasible or not and other considerations, such as abutters opinions.

Mr. Wacksman advocates for sticking strictly to the charge and not make a conclusion about the appropriateness of the trail. Mr. Tasse would like to support retaining town rights. Mr. Fleming commented that the study is about technical feasibility, not retaining rights. Mr. Tasse commented on a transition from extension of paper street rights to acceptance. Committee members generally agreed, but noted this was beyond the scope of the technical assessment. The committee agreed to include practical challenges noted by neighbors in the May meeting discussion, and also to look at how this fits into the 2013 Greenbelt Plan.

The report should include: text of the Town Council charge, a 1 page executive summary, practical considerations and the full technical report from Mr. Harding. Emails from residents may also be included in the report.

Ms. Blair said she expected there would be public comments on the draft report. How formal will that be? She would like public comments to be structured to the committee's rules and to encourage public comments to be submitted in writing in advance as much as possible. There was more conversation during the public

comment tonight than should be for the draft report. Perhaps we should allow a total of 15 minutes per area? Mr. Tasse noted that the committee's charge did not include conducting a public hearing. Staff is directed to prepare a statement about public comment that limits it to 15 minutes total, a maximum of 3 minutes per person and written comments encouraged.

4. Budget. The committee discussed the FY2018 budget request for greenbelt trail maintenance. It was noted the White trail in Winnick Woods is muddy and will need work. The boggiess of the Nordic Trail was also mentioned. Ms. Blair suggested a budget line to fund DEP permitting. Staff reminded the committee of the approximate \$16,000 commitment as part of the Pollack Brook bridge project/grant.

After reviewing a draft list of trail needs and estimated costs, the committee voted 7-0 to recommend a budget of \$19,000 for FY 2018 Greenbelt Trail maintenance.

5. Greenbelt Implementation. The committee discussed construction of benches to be installed at Gull Crest. The committee liked the bench design from Yarmouth and Mr. Wacksman offered to construct 2 benches. The committee voted 7-0 to authorize up to \$1,500 for materials.
6. Planning Board meeting. The Conservation Committee acknowledged that the Planning Board would hold a public hearing on the Maxwell Woods project, but that revised plans would be submitted for the March meeting. The Conservation Committee remains interested in the project and will comment on the plans when they are revised.
7. Other trail items. The committee will reach out to the Nordic group off-season to coordinate some trail improvements. Mr. Gabrielson will join CELT on the CT walk. Two canoes were left on the Great Pond boat storage racks and will need to be removed.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.