

Conservation Committee Minutes
July 11, 2017

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

Maureen O'Meara (staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comment

Debra Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - She thanked the committee for its hard work, as well as the Town Engineer, on the paper street technical study.

Mr. Tasse reported that he attended he represented the Conservation Committee and the July 11th Town Council meeting and summarized the committee's recommendation. Eleven members of the public spoke, 6 in favor of vacating paper street rights and 5 in favor of preserving rights. The Town Council voted 4-3 to begin the paper street vacation process.

Mrs. Murphy said the Town Council process was totally out of order and there is growing public outcry. The greenbelt process is done and the majority wants paper streets retained. She hopes the Conservation Committee provides information to the Town Council.

Sheila Mayberry, 30 Trundy Rd - She supports the Conservation Committee taking the lead on stewardship of the greenbelt.

Sue Guerrette Murray, 2 Katahdin Rd - She thanked the Conservation Committee. She wants help to correct the record and is concerned the report was not considered and the Town Council decision contradicts the Greenbelt Plan.

Jim Morra, 5 Waumbek - He uses the greenbelt trails weekly. He encouraged the Conservation Committee to let its views be known. He is concerned with the lack of review of the report by the Town Council.

Maynard Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - Councilor Lennon said the Conservation Committee does not want to build the trail and statements were made that paper street vacation can be easily done. OVA owns the land but the land is also encumbered by other rights. Thank you for your work.

AJ Dininno, 1 Cedar Ledge Rd- He questioned who benefits from the Town Council vote?

Mr. Tasse said he can't speak to that. The general sense is to keep the neighborhood private and that the property really isn't public.

Betsy French, 14 Pilot Point Rd- She enjoys the overlook on Surfside. It is open to everyone in Shore Acres as an asset. It has been shared in the past and has never been in private hands since 1911.

Deb Murphy, 24 Pilot Point Rd - She has right of way and Civil Engineering experience and it is unlikely that the town will collect more taxes due to the private rights than encumber Surfside. There are express rights and implied rights and 71 properties have rights. The public has subsidized the paper street for years.

Mr. Tasse clarified that the Conservation Committee has done what has been asked on the paper streets.

Jerry French, 14 Pilot Point Rd - He noted that Pilot Point was not on the agenda.

Betsy French, 14 Pilot Point Rd - She said property owners want land back that they never owned.

1. The minutes of the June 13, 2017 meeting were adopted unanimously.
2. Cross Hill trail improvements. Noah Olsen, Eagle Scout candidate described improvements to muddy sections of trail at Cross Hill. He will build boardwalks to address 2 of 6 existing muddy sections of trail. The boardwalk would be 24' and 30' long for a total of 54' long. He provided a sketch of the boardwalk construction and would like to do the work the third weekend of September to October, with work completed before November, unless rain delays construction. He estimated materials costs at \$430-4485. Construction will be on-site.

Ms. Blair asked if he had experience with other construction projects. He has had several hours of experience with other eagle scout projects. Mr. Tasse confirmed that the boardwalk will be 4 planks wide with 4' sleepers. The cutting will be done on site, although some cutting will also be done at home and delivered. Mr. Wacksman said the project will be more of a haul project than a building project. He encouraged Mr. Olsen to add enough length to extend beyond the muddy spots. Mr. Gabrielson noted that the boardwalk should not be left with but ends

but rather ramp each end. Mr. Petitt reminded him that daylight hours will decline in the fall.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gabrielson, to authorize up to \$750 for the boardwalk construction project.

3. Wending maps. Wendy Clark made a presentation about a set of 12 maps she is publishing of popular mountain biking trails. She is using available data, including data from CELT, Town, Strava, etc. The maps will indicate trail difficulty as beginner, novice (green), intermediate (blue) and advanced (black). Committee members asked about copyright intentions, and using Cape trail blaze colors on the maps.

4. Pollack Brook project. Staff provided a status report that contracts are still in process.

5. Winnick Woods. This item was tabled to September.

6. Trail work events. The committee would like to schedule trail marking in coordination with Canterbury for July 18th, beginning at 5:45 pm, to meet at the end of Columbus Rd. A bridge building event will be scheduled at Stonegate on August 15th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Maureen will seek homeowner permission to access trail from shortest point and also solicit volunteers. Mr. Tasse will develop a materials list. The committee reviewed outstanding trail work. Eastman access to Winnick is done.

7. Priority setting. The committee agreed to table priority setting to September.

8. Next meeting. The committee will next meet on September 12th.

9. No member of the public wished to speak. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.