

Conservation Committee Minutes **DRAFT**
October 10, 2017

Present: Jim Tasse, Marti Blair, Mark Fleming, Zach Matzkin, Robert Petitt

Maureen O'Meara (staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Public Comment. No members of the public wished to speak.
2. Eagle Scout Candidate. Tim Gilda, Eagle Scout Candidate, expressed his interest in working on a greenbelt project to obtain his Eagle Scout rank. He has worked on other greenbelt/eagle scout construction projects. Tim said he would like to finish by the end of the school year, May/June 2018.

The committee discussed two possible projects. Option 1 would involve construction of additional boardwalks on the Cross Hill trails. The boardwalk would be about 25' long, with access to the site approximately 200' to 500' from the nearest road. This would add boardwalk to the same area of new boardwalk recently completed by Eagle Scout candidate Noah Olsen. Option 2 would be trail clearing from Spurwink Ave to the Spurwink River as part of the Pollack Brook bridge project. Tim expressed interest in Option 1. Jim Tasse agreed to meet Tim on Thursday, October 26th near the end of Tiger Lily Lane to show him the site. Maureen will contact the local Boy Scout troop about possible interest in the trail clearing project.

3. Metal Signs. The committee expressed satisfaction with current signage, but will revisit this item next month when Mr. Wacksman can speak to it.
4. Bike features on greenbelt trails. Mr. Tasse described bike enhancements added to town greenbelt trails on the yellow trail in Winnick Woods. He felt the berms were generally not intrusive to other trail users. He also met and road with a group of Cape youth bike riders to see what they were interested in. Some of their ideas were low level changes and might be acceptable. He emphasized that no changes should be made to greenbelt trails without first obtaining Conservation Committee approval.

Ms. Blair expressed concern with improvements that turn greenbelt trails into a terrain park, as these are multi-use trails. She also noted potential environmental impacts. She is comfortable deferring to Jim Tasse as a technical expert on potential changes. She wants to keep walkers safe and avoid user conflicts.

The committee emphasized that no trail alterations should be made without Conservation Committee permission. People interested in making changes should start by contacting the town planner for more information.

The committee wants to make signs that discourage rogue trail improvements and then decide on locations where the signs should be posted.

5. Canterbury. Jim Tasse met Fred Sprague on site and removed the bike enhancement that was created by other users. The committee agreed to hold any additional trail work for the winter and see how trails settle in.

6. Winnick Woods. The committee agreed to delay discussion of possible trail realignments to another meeting.

7. Seaview Beach Steps. The committee noted that the steps are wearing down. Staff developed one option to repair using the same technique used in Fort Williams to patch the concrete. The repair estimate was for \$7,000 for a temporary fix estimated to last 2-3 years. The committee agreed this was too costly for a temporary fix and would like to look at other options. Maureen will work on some other options.

8. Trail work scheduling. Postponed to next month.

9. General trail items.

- There is a tree down at Broad Cove, nearest access is off Heritage Court.
- The trail on the Crescent Beach property, located off of Two Lights Rd near Hannaford Cove Rd, needs vegetation trimming. The state should be contacted to obtain permission to do the work.
- The committee would like to assemble a Best Practices document to capture the knowledge of committee members who have been making trail improvements. Mr. Tasse said we could also borrow from existing sources. The committee agreed to pull together 2-3 commonly used sketches.

10. Greenbelt priorities. The committee agreed to put this item first on the next agenda.

11. Public Comment. No member of the public was present.

12. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.