

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m. July 10, 2018

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

Maureen O'Meara, staff

1. Mr. Gabrielson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. No members of the public wished to speak about items not on the agenda.
2. Conversation with Kurt Shoener, Crescent Beach/Kettle Cove State Parks Manager. Mr. Shoener was invited to attend the meeting and talk about trails and opportunities for partnerships. The committee asked about a trail extending from Two Lights Rd westward. Mr. Shoener said that trail is a "social trail," created by the neighbors. The entrance at Two Lights Rd is at an unsafe location on a knoll and the state does not maintain the trail.

The committee discussed improving the trail, perhaps shifting the entrance on Two Lights Rd to a safer spot and/or adding a hurdle. Mr. Shoener would like any help available from the town to clear brush back on the shoulder to 15'-20' to make it safer for bikers and other users. He explained the process for placing trails on state property. Mr. Shoener would like to improve existing trails because the Crescent Beach and Kettle Cove trails do not connect. To establish a new trail, a plan would need to be prepared. The regional office would need to review the plan and ultimately support it. If a new trail is approved, it must be built properly and state park staff does not do trail construction. Based on current budget levels (the park lost 4 staff this year due to budget cuts), construction costs would need to be funded by an entity other than the state.

Mr. Petitt asked about the status of the Crescent Beach lease. Mr. Shoener said that the state and the Sprague Corporation are currently in a year to year lease extension.

Mr. Shoener noted that he attended several meetings of the town's Harbor Committee. He is coordinating with the town on enforcement and management of the commercial boat launch and the recreational boat launch. Crescent Beach is working to encourage recreational boaters to park and use Crescent Beach and leave capacity at Kettle Cove.

Ms. O'Meara will pass on the request for brush clearing along the shoulder to the Public Works Department. Mr. Gabrielson encouraged Mr. Shoener to contact the Conservation Committee if it can help. Mr. Shoener said he would appreciate receiving a digital file of the town greenbelt map.

3. Cross Hill boardwalk/Tiger Lily Ln. Tim Gilda, Eagle Scout candidate, attended the meeting and distributed a plan of the boardwalk he would build. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the permitting sought from the DEP, which is still in process. The town resource protection permit has been granted.

Mr. Tasse recommended replacing the 2' x 10' with 5/4 x 6', which is lighter and was used last week successfully. It may also be less expensive. The committee discussed the two approaches, and agreed that 2'x10' could be used. When using the 5/4, three supports are needed. If the design has 2 supports, a heftier decking is needed to reduce bounce.

Mr. Gabrielson asked about labor. Mr. Gilda said that when he has a construction date, he will solicit scout volunteers plus 3 adults. He expects 11 volunteers.

Ms. O'Meara will let him know when permitting has been obtained.

4. Winnick Woods trail rehab. Mr. Tasse reviewed during and after pictures of the trail rehab. The committee was pleased with the improvements making it easier for all trail users. Mr. Gabrielson asked if updates to trail mapping would be needed. Most of the trails have been rehabbed in place, but two new trail segments will be added and then should be put on the trail map. The meadow trail will be done in August. Approximately 0.4 miles of trail have been upgraded for a cost of \$7,000.

The committee decided that the sponsors would be thanked during a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Tasse said the donations would also be for the town, so that a charitable tax donation will be possible. Mr. Tasse would like to send a letter of commendation to the students, whose pay was raised to \$12/hr. The committee decided that strava data would be tagged so bike racing would not be allowed.

The committee scheduled a Ribbon cutting ceremony for August 18th at 10:00 a.m. [Following the meeting, a revised date of Monday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m. was selected for the ceremony.]

The committee also wants to contact a landowner abutting Winnick Woods about a legacy trail that has recently been closed by CELT.

The committee noted correspondence regarding the use of pesticides on the Eastman Meadows parking easement. The committee agreed to take no action.

5. Cliff House Beach stairs. Ms. O'Meara summarized the installation of the stairs and related items.

Mr. Gabrielson summarized the Town Council meeting discussion regarding installing a sign encouraging courteous behavior.

The committee discussed the process it will use this fall and winter to review management of the beach. The committee will not start its review before October to include post-season activity on the beach. The committee will feature public comment at one committee meeting and then prepare a recommendation at the next meeting, allowing for public comment in accordance with meeting rules. Committee members were encouraged to take pictures of signs they see and like in preparation.

6. Great Pond Boat Racks Sign. CELT has asked for permission to put signs on the boat racks seeking volunteers for water quality testing. The committee reviewed the easement the town holds, which limits signage to greenbelt. Ms. O'Meara will notify CELT that the Conservation Committee cannot approve other signage.
7. Tiger Lily Lane trail access. Ms. O'Meara showed pictures of the new ramp access. Committee members preferred the previous access but will work to make the new trail access more accessible.
8. Next meeting. The committee agreed to take a summer break and will next meet on September 11th. That meeting will include a review of the easement monitoring submitted by CELT. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.