

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m. September 11, 2018 Town Hall

Present: Jeremy Gabrielson, Chair, Marti Blair, Robert Petitt, Jim Tasse, Zack Matzkin.

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. The minutes were approved 4-0.
3. Tiger Lily Ln trail access. The committee asked for public comment on the realignment of greenbelt access from the end of Tiger Lily Ln.

Andrew Wu, 22 Tiger Lily Ln - He asked the committee to consider eliminating this access to the greenbelt. It is located at the convergence of three driveways at the end of the road. He thinks it is a safety issue with a blind spot for his driveway.

Mr. Gabrielson said a redesign of the existing ramp access will result in slowing down the trail users. Mr. Tasse said the redesign will prevent washouts.

Mr. Wu said there is no trail at the top of the access now. Mr. Tasse said that a trail has been flagged within the 50' wide right-of-way. The trail is flagged because the old access trail crossed another lot and the lot owner does not want the trail on the lot.

Mr. Wu said the new trail will bring lots of users close to his backyard. Mr. Tasse said the committee's options are limited due to the new driveway on the private lot.

Mr. Tasse made a motion to implement the redesign of the Tiger Lily Ln access with a switchback and plantings located downhill of the bench. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.

4. Easement monitoring.

Suzanne McGinn, Chris Tullman and Tim Case, Co-Chair of the CELT Stewardship committee, reviewed the easement monitoring reports for Cross Hill and the Town Farm. The committee agreed to start with the

Town Farm. Mr. Tullman said they walked the property, noted concerns, including a deer stand.

Ms. O'Meara suggested that the easement monitoring be based on the terms of the CELT easement on the property. It does not appear that the easement conveys rights to CELT to regulate hunting. That would be regulated by the town's management plan.

The Conservation Committee expressed appreciation for the stewardship committee work, but agreed that the monitoring report should relate to the easement terms. A separate section could provide comments not specified under the easement.

The discussion moved to Cross Hill easement monitoring. (Mr. Matzkin arrived 7:45 p.m.). Mr. Gabrielson asked CELT to walk through the report and noted that there are a lot of third party violations. Some are not in the easement.

CELT noted they walked the easement boundary with CC member Mark Fleming. They are documenting what they observed, but it does not need to be addressed right away. The Conservation Committee said it would be helpful to identify which are easement violations. Infringements are highest priorities.

Mr. Case said this was informally done. Ms. O'Meara said this is now part of the public record, with some obligation of the town to take action. Encroachments could require property boundary surveys, which are costly.

Mr. Gabrielson suggested the committee and CELT can work together to refine the encroachments as possible, apparent, actual, etc... (Mr. Petitt left at 8:05 p.m.)

Mr. Tullman gave the example of a patio encroachment. Ms. Blair said we do not want to ignore encroachments and want open space to remain open space. We were in hot water with the paper streets and this feels like the same thing. Yard extensions are a problem.

Mr. Tasse emphasized that protecting public access is a priority.

Mr. Gabrielson would consider it helpful to know if trails are deteriorating. It is typical for the property owner and easement holder to

communicate and together resolve any management concerns. He thanked CELT for walking the boundaries with Mark.

The Conservation Committee agreed that the easement monitoring reports should be revised to identify violations of the easement terms, and then may also include other comments. We could also discuss how dog fences will be handled (Dog fences were identified because the dog fence wires were visible.)

The committee agreed to discuss this at the November meeting, with revised reports from CELT.

5. Cross Hill boardwalk permit. This is still in process. Mr. Tasse noted that NEMBA is donating \$250.00 for boardwalk costs.
6. Winnick Woods wrap -up. Mr. Tasse thanked the Conservation Committee for its support of this pilot effort. He reviewed the new trail segment locations. There have been lots of positive comments and emails from trail users. The committee noted that the trails map should be updated and that there are multiple apps that may be able to collect the data.

Mr. Tasse would like to discuss fielding a low-cost high school trail crew to work on trails to deroot, correct wet spots, etc. The committee agreed to discuss the idea in February, 2019.

Mr. Matzkin asked about some of the manmade features for bikes on the trails. Mr. Tasse said those trails are still fine to walk even if some have a bit more bike flavor. There are no drop offs.

Mr. Tasse made a motion to discuss in January, 2019, possible creation of a Conservation Corps of Cape youth work group to pay for trails work over the summer. Mr. Matzkin seconded the motion. Mr. Gabrielson said we would be working on our budget in January and he sees this as within the CC budget rather than a separate budget item. Mr. Tasee noted this would not only improve trails but also include youth engagement. The motion passed 3-1. Ms. Blair said she would withhold her support until the January discussion.

7. Cottage Brook encroachments. The Conservation Committee identified possible trail relocations needed as part of new development and will be revisiting it in future meetings.

8. Pollack Brook Bridge and boardwalk RP permit. The Conservation Committee reviewed the Resource Protection Permit application submitted to the Planning Board for the Pollack Brook bridge and boardwalk. The Conservation Committee is authorized by ordinance to provide advice to the Planning Board for resource protection permits. The committee noted that this permit is need for the committee's bridge project. This disclosure was included in the recommendation by the committee to grant the permit (motion made by Gabrielson and seconded by Blair) and unanimously approved.
9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.