

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m. November 19, 2018

Present: Jeremy Gabrielson, Chair, Marti Blair, Jim Tasse, Zach Matzkin

Maureen O'Meara, staff

1. Mr. Gabrielson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The minutes were approved (4-0). No member of the public wished to speak about items not on the agenda.
2. Mr. Gilda was not present, so discussion of the Loveitt Woods trail improvements will be held at a future meeting.
3. 44 Spurwink Ave donation. Colin Powers, 44 Spurwink Ave, explained that he would like to donate land adjacent to his home. He noted that he would retain at least 20,000 sq. ft. to preserve compliance with minimum lot size requirements.

The Conservation Committee reviewed the map showing the approximate location of the land donation and its relationship to the Greenbelt Plan. The committee agreed that the land had value as habitat as part of the Ferne Peddy lots and that this donation would not include trading any land owned by the town. Some survey and title work would probably be needed. Mr. Collins said he would assume that responsibility.

The committee adopted the following motion by a vote of 4-0.

The Conservation Committee recommends that the Town Council consider acceptance of land to be donated in the area of 44 Spurwink Ave abutting town land, with the note that survey and title work may need to be done.

The committee thanked Mr. Powers for his generous offer.

4. The committee discussed ongoing greenbelt maintenance projects.

Tiger Lily access - Mr. Tasse reflagged the proposed access from the new ramp with the surveyor. He found both Wu and Klingebiel property stakes. The trail is ready to install, but hampered by snow cover. Ms. O'Meara explained that snow fencing was installed by Public Works along the outside edge of the ramp. The hope is that native vegetation will fill in the slope within the next 1-2 years.

Pollack Brook - Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the status, cost increases and the expectation the bridge will be installed by mid-December. Mr. Gabrielson said he had discussions with middle school teachers and recommends a ribbon cutting in May. The committee agreed to this proposal. The committee also supported the decision to move forward with the bridge installation and fund cost increases with the greenbelt trails account. The account is now essentially depleted and additional committee expenses will need to wait until FY2020 funding is available.

Spurwink redecking - The committee reviewed the bid provided by Jordan Gower for redecking the Spurwink Bridge and boardwalk with three options. The committee was concerned with the cost, and staff noted that the project has been separately funded with \$35,000. Staff also explained that disposal costs must be added to the project cost. Cost overruns could be covered with FY2020 funds. Mr. Gower is ready to replace the decking now, but will also honor the bid to replace next Spring.

Committee members were concerned with leaving cost overruns for the next committee to deal with, but supported the idea of getting another winter out of the current decking. There was agreement to contract out the decking replacement before the end of the FY 2019 fiscal year, but to delay a decision on the decking choice until February, 2019. More information on disposal costs and the durability of composite decking in sunny conditions was requested.

Dog Ordinance - Mr. Gabrielson updated the committee on the November Town Council meeting. The Town Council was supportive of reviewing the entire ordinance and also liked the management category approach. The Town Council reserved comment on delegation of management authority and wants to see the ordinance proposal before deciding on a direction. The committee directed staff to prepare a draft ordinance for committee review at the next meeting.

5. The committee reviewed the plans for the Appletree School site plan/resource protection permit. By a vote of 4-0, the Conservation Committee adopted the following motion:

The Conservation Committee supports the Resource Protection Permit subject to restoration of the disturbed area to pre-development conditions.

6. The committee discussed conflicts with the December 11, 2018 meeting date for the chair and staff. After discussing alternative dates, the committee decided that it would be more productive to start significant projects in January with the new committee membership. The committee agreed to cancel the December meeting and next meet in January.
7. Committee members recognized member Marti Blair, who is term-limited off the Conservation Committee at the end of 2018. She has made substantive contributions to the committee discussion, has been a strong advocate of the greenbelt network and will be missed.
8. Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.