

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Robert Petitt, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to public comment of items not on the agenda.

Chris Schorn, CELT - He will be conducting easement monitoring on town property June 3rd, 4th, and 6th and is inviting Conservation Committee members to join him. Conservation Committee members will email Maureen if they intend to join him, and she will provide public notice if 2 or more members will attend. Mr. Wacksman asked for an update on encroachments. Ms. O'Meara said that the town had provided Chris with a letter that supports CELT in remediating encroachments. The Town has initiated contact with the Becks regarding paving encroachment located at 70 Cross Hill Rd.

Chris also reported on an invasive gray willow clump identified by Nancy Olmsted, State Botanist, located at Great Pond. It is located on the Sprague property where the town holds an easement. Chris asked for permission to map it and to remove it, while it is still a single clump. He said he would lop it and if that is done 3 times in 2 years, it should be eliminated.

Mitch Wacksman made a motion, seconded by Bruce Moore, to grant permission to remove the invasive located within the town's easement and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wacksman asked if it could be marked with a flag, and Chris said the flag would be in the water as the clump is growing under water and is about 1/2 foot tall.

Mr. Wacksman asked about the success of the matting placed over knotweed by the Great Pond steps. Chris said it has been reasonably effective. There remain 3 stems in the corner and the knotweed grows over and under to another location. The carpet will need to be in place for multiple years.

Tom Meyers, 4 Sea View Ave - He wants to comment on Cliff House Beach management. He appreciates the committee's hard work and creating rules as an appendix to the Management plan. The rules were passed by the Town Council Monday night and the neighborhood appreciates it. He encourages signage near the stairway, on an existing pole.

2. Minutes. Mr. Tasse corrected the name of the trails rehab contractor, who is Jeremy Nellis. The minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting were approved as amended (4-0).

3. Greenbelt implementation.

- Winnick Woods Event - The Conservation Committee reviewed an application submitted by Jamie Wright, Gorham Bike and Ski, to host a children's bike skills event at Winnick Woods. The event will be held for 1.5 hours on Tuesday nights.

Mr. Wacksman supports the idea and questioned parking as the Winnick Woods parking lot will not be adequate. Mr. Wright said there is legal parking on the road, however, he will be encouraging parents to drop off their kids. Mr. Tasse encouraged carpooling.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Day, to approve the event and it passed 5-0.

Ms. O'Meara will provide public notice of the event.

- NEMBA event - Mr. Tasse explained that NEMBA would like to hold a guided group bike event on Saturday, May 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Winnick Woods. The event will have approximately 50 attendees, but no vehicles. The committee reviewed the event under the event provisions in the Conservation Ordinance (Sec. 18-5-4(h)). Mr. Tasse recused himself from the vote because he was providing information about the event.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the event, which passed by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Tasse said he will monitor the impact of the event on the trails.

Ms. O'Meara will add the event application to the town website.

- Winnick Woods rehab - Mr. Tasse reported that Mr. Nellis is on site doing trail rehab. The work is not a complete dig out, but rather spot

treatments and stabilization. Mr. Wacksman asked that the corners be constrained with boulders to avoid trail straightening. Mr. Tasse said that was included in the work.

Mr. Moore complimented the improvements to the trail at the big hill, which won't wash out anymore. Mr. Tasse said Mr. Nellis is the best in the state with trail improvements. If he finishes the yellow trail, he can do up to 4 weeks total of trail work. If he can work on Cross Hill, Tasse and O'Meara will need to meet with him onsite.

Mr. Moore noted the muddy spot near the pond, which may need boardwalk. Improvements in this location may need a permit.

- Cliff House Beach Park Signage - The committee reviewed sign concepts for Cliff House Beach Park that will feature the new dog rules. Ms. O'Meara recommended a single place sign, similar to the treatment at Winnick Woods. Mr. Tasse recommended 2 smaller signs.

Tom Meyers, 4 Sea View Ave - He likes a single sign, but supports Conservation Committee efforts.

Mr. Moore asked if the temporary sign generated complaints and Ms. O'Meara said any sign will generate complaints. Mr. Tasse recommended 2 18" x 24" signs, which will have a smaller impact and Ms. Day concurred. The committee discussed multiple locations, including the temporary sign location, the head of the path, and the rear of the bench, and also considered sign visibility (to promote compliance) and impact on views of the neighborhood.

Mr. Tasse made a motion for 2 24" by 18" signs with all the information similar to the Winnick sign, 1 to be placed at the top of the stairs and 1 at another location. The motion was not seconded.

A second motion was made for a 24" x 36"-40" sign to be installed in the area of the temporary sign, plus a second smaller sign to be installed at the top of the stair with just the dog rules. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and passed 3-2 (Tasse, Day).

- Winnick Woods memorial - The committee discussed a request to install a memorial bench with plaque. The committee noted that memorial benches had been considered and rejected for Gull Crest, due to concerns with management obligations. The committee also noted concerns with vandalism and the consensus was to avoid memorials such as plaques.

- Loveitt Woods improvements - On hold.

- Pollack Brook trail to Spurwink River - Mr. Wacksman and Mr. Tasse have visited the site to field locate the proposed trail. The site is already very thick with vegetation and there is a loop trail between the bridge and the cemetery. Should we reconsider connecting to the cemetery roads and then maybe add a loop closer to the point near the Spurwink River overlook? Ms. O'Meara will report back on this and also send a copy of the permitting obtained to the Conservation Committee. There is also a question about parking within the cemetery.

The Conservation Committee would also like to ask Chris Thompson to add erosion control mix to the Town Farm trail.

- Trails on hold - Stonegate, Tiger Lily

- Intern - Ms. O'Meara reported that an intern will be working with her for 8 weeks and 1/2 of his time can be programmed for trail mapping. The Conservation Committee supported paying him for the field mapping work.

- Trail closure policy - On hold till next meeting.

4. Culvert Presentation. On hold till next meeting due to time limitations.
5. Planning Board. The Conservation Committee reviewed the Ocean House Commons site plan application. There was general support but no formal motion as the committee already commented on the project.
6. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held June 11, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.