

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

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

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to citizen comments. No members of the public were present.
2. The minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. RFP. The committee discussed the purpose of the draft RFP, to perform an inventory and assessment of greenbelt boardwalks for replacement and extension and evaluation of locations where boardwalks may be needed. The final report would then be used as a basis for required permitting. Instead of applying for an individual permit for each improvement, the town can apply for a master permit for all the anticipated improvements on a property.

Mr. Tasse said the committee will need to establish criteria for evaluating boardwalk quality, trail conditions, etc. He suggested the scope include evaluation of trail locations where derooting, fill surface stabilization and trail rerouting should be considered. That may include quantifying the density of root within a length of trail, or level of wetness. The committee will discuss criteria at a future meeting before initiating the project with the selected consultant.

Committee members discussed who might do the work. Can a nonprofit submit a proposal to do the work? Ms. O'Meara said yes but a nonprofit organization affiliated with a Conservation Committee member would have a conflict. Mr. Wacksman asked if a volunteer could do the work. Committee members suggested that a volunteer would not be able to provide the base information to use for permitting.

Mr. Petitt suggested someone with qualifications similar to the Army Corps of Engineers would be desirable. Mr. Saucier would like the project to also include grouping trail improvements by priority. Mr. Tasse suggested highest priority is imminent failure, then 2-5 year life and 5+ year life.

Ms. Day questioned the schedule. Starting the assessment in November might not adequately indicate wet locations that are visible in the spring and trail conditions could be obscured by snow cover. The committee agreed to release the RFP in late January for a target start in March, 2020. The committee will review revisions to the draft RFP in October.

4. Pollack Brook Trail. Ms. O'Meara reviewed the work on the trail connections from Pollack Brook that will be undertaken by eagle scout candidates and a meeting she had with candidate Chris Choi, his mother and Scout leader A.J. DiNinno. Mr. Choi will be improving the trails immediately south of the bridge and also clearing the burial ground north of the bridge of vegetative debris. Mr. Gilda may be taking on clearing of the trail from the west edge of the cemetery roadway to the point. Committee members would like to work with Mr. Gilda to identify the trail alignment.

Ms. O'Meara described a boulder marker for the burial ground. More detail will be provided at the next meeting and she will coordinate with the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society as well.

5. Maps. The committee partially reviewed updated trail maps. For the Canterbury map, the committee would like the Aster Lane trail to be added, to change the trail map colors to match the signage on site, to remove the existing pedestrian easement depicted and to add a note that there should be no access to Canterbury "village."

The committee discussed overhauling how trail maps are provided to the public. Should we add the location of each intersection on a trail? Many trail users access maps online through services such as trail fork and some trails have names not used on the trail maps. CELT has a more attractive map. Should the town integrate its mapping by linking with online services? Is it important to depict ownership on trail maps?

Ms. O'Meara supports updating the townwide map, which is handed out at town hall and is well received. Perhaps the individual maps should be discontinued? The current maps are done in-house and if the committee would like a more polished map, professional mapping consulting should be obtained, which is how CELT produces its map. CELT gets the data on trail locations from the town.

The committee agreed to review draft updates to the maps at the next meeting.

6. Dog Ordinance. Ms. O'Meara reported that the Dog Ordinance has been adopted by the Town Council. The next step will be implementation, including signage. The committee would like a map depicting dog rules on town open space, which Ms. O'Meara will send.
7. Signage. With adoption of new Dog Ordinance requirements, the Conservation Committee may want to review all its signage and provide uniform, comprehensive signage at trail heads. Mr. Wacksman noted the dog sticker approach used by CELT. He also would like to obtain copies of the signs used in Falmouth. The committee generally agreed that it can be challenging navigating Winnick Woods.

Changes to the Winnick Woods map should include adding streets and updating the Sahrbeck trail now that we have a license. Members of the Conservation Committee will also try to meet with Jay Cox to reopen the connecting trail on his property. Ms. O'Meara noted that coordination with CELT is needed due to the easement it holds on the Cox property.

8. Ebikes policy. The committee noted the increase of ebike use, the aging population, and possible need to revisit existing policy. No decision to reopen discussion on the policy was made.
9. The committee decided to move the October meeting from the 8th to October 24th due to conflicts with members' schedules. Items on that agenda will include the RFP proposal and greenbelt trail mapping. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.