

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 24, 2019
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Zach Matzkin,
Robert Petitt, Philip Saucier,

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse opened the meeting to citizen comments.

Nick Leschey, Eagle Scout candidate, made a presentation on a possible trail project connecting Aster Lane to McAuley Rd (suggested by Ms. O'Meara). The trail length is about 500'. Troup Leader A. J. DiNinno asked about the number of man hours needed and Mr. Leschey estimated 10 people would take 3-4 hours to clear debris, and then the same amount of time again for trail widening. Mr. Moore asked about the type of debris and Mr. Leschey said tree trunk, brush, etc. Debris would be moved to the Recycling Center.

There was discussion about expanding the project a bit by adding a lollypop trail on the McAuley end, adding a bench, or adding another length of trail with a lollypop on the northerly end of open space adjacent to the Sawyer Marsh. Mr. DiNinno suggested that Mr. Leschey submit the details for the project for the November 12th meeting, submission to the Boy Scout Council November 20th and then do the work in the Spring, 2020. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Day, to support this proposal and the motion passed 6-0.

Tim Gilda, eagle scout candidate, presented a slide show on clearing the Pollack Brook west trail. No materials will be needed, but funding to rent a bush hog was requested. The project will be done in the Fall, 2019.

Mr. DiNinno asked if the trail was marked, and Mr. Tasse said that he and Mr. Wacksman had done some flagging. Mr. Tasse explained that the cleared area should be 5' wide, with an 18" wide traveled path. Some chainsaw work will be needed, but Mr. Moore clarified that trees will be avoided. Mr. Tasse noted that this trail connection is a priority to complete the Pollack Brook bridge project. Ms. Day made a motion to approve the project with up to \$210 in funding, seconded by Mr. Moore. The motion passed 6-0.

Mr. DiNinno asked the committee to support Saturday's food drive.

2. The minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Encroachments. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the Riverside Cemetery rogue trail, cut down to the marsh. Wood boards have been removed and a sign posted that no vegetation alteration or placement of materials is allowed.

The Cliff House Beach Park encroachment consists of shrubs planted in the grassed upland area. Following assistance from a surveyor to locate property pins, the shrubs were removed. The committee was satisfied with remediation measures. Mr. Tasse suggested that a bike rack may be appropriate to add to Cliff House Beach Park.

4. Sahrbeck/Cox trail. Mr. Tasse reported that he and Mitch Wacksman met with Jay Cox onsite. Mr. Cox granted permission for reopening a trail that connects to the Sahrbeck land, but not for a loop trail called the "noodle." Mr. Cox wants to manage his property as a destination rather than a thruway. Mr. Tasse will provide gps information of the approved trail. As easement holder, CELT has been notified of the discussion with Mr. Cox. Some work will be needed to reopen the trail and add signage.
5. Maps. The committee reviewed updated maps based on the work of last summer's intern. The Canterbury trail color coding will be revised to reflect blue and orange marking onsite.

The committee questioned the trail mapping at Winnick Woods. One trail section has not been signed and was not picked up in the mapping. Adjustments to reflect the Sahrbeck/Cox trail will be needed. Ms. O'Meara will make the revisions and reissue the trail map. The committee will continue a broader discussion about mapping at the November meeting.

6. Land purchase. Ms. Day asked if the committee can make a recommendation for a land purchase. It can and has done so in the past. It was noted a land purchase recommendation should align with the Greenbelt Plan and the Land acquisition fund has little funds at this time. The property does not appear to align with the Greenbelt plan and no recommendation was made.
7. General management. The committee noted storm damage which will be forwarded to Chris Thompson. The committee discussed the meadow

mowing recommendations provided by Kate O'Brien, USFWS. The committee voted 5-0 to implement the policy.

8. Signage. The committee reviewed the various types of signage currently used in Cape Elizabeth and examples elsewhere. They generally agreed to create 2 uniform signs, one for most trails and a second for larger open spaces. The signs will include:

- Voice and site control of dogs
- on leash within 10' of a parking lot
- disposal of pet waste
- failure to obey rules may result in loss of off-leash privileges (big only)
- no vegetation alteration
- courteous to all users

The sign will incorporate the "G" trail brand, green background and be made of metal. Ms. O'Meara will provide a mock-up for review at the next meeting.

9. Next meeting. The next meeting will be November 12th. It will include signage, mapping, and the Town Council referral of the Water body naming project.
10. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.