

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee  
FROM: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner  
DATE: November 12, 2019  
SUBJECT: Water body naming project

### Introduction

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council has referred to the Conservation Committee the following Comprehensive Plan recommendation for implementation:

#72 Assign names to significant unnamed bodies of water and streams

The following process is proposed for Conservation Committee consideration.

#### 1. Water Body Identification

Town GIS Consultant Judy Colby-George of Spatial Alternatives will review data sets to identify water bodies which have not been named. Data will include:

- National Hydrographic Data (USGS)
- Old 7.5 USGS paper maps
- Delorme data

Maps will be prepared depicting water bodies and streams lacking a name. Each water body will be assigned a reference number to be used during the naming project. Naming protocols for existing data layers will be identified. Mapping can be ready for the January 14, 2020 meeting.

#### 2. Naming protocol

The Conservation Committee will agree on a strategy for choosing names. Elements for consideration might include:

- Historic: name of property owner, location, cultural element
- Natural feature: distinctive physical feature of water body, habitat, location
- Unique naming: Names should not duplicate names already in use, similar to the principles of E911 and the Addressing Ordinance. (Use 2019 Comprehensive Plan, Water Resources chapter for reference)
- Public support: involvement by the property owner, neighborhood, students

### 3. Public Participation

The Conservation Committee should incorporate opportunities for public input. Elements might include:

- Property owner: notify property owner on whose property the water body is located
- Neighborhood mailer: Send out maps with suggested names to neighborhoods.
- Online suggestion: Set up mapping online and invite suggestions
- Student participation: i.e. assign a specific water body to a school grade to name
- Public forum: Host structured event to collect comment on draft names

### 4. Recommendation

The Conservation Committee should provide a formal recommendation to the Town Council, and include recommended steps to submit to USGS, others for naming to be used beyond town maps.