

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 virus, the Conservation Committee conducted the meeting via Zoom remote access as provided by Maine law. Zoom allowed all Conservation Committee members and members of the public to hear all discussion and votes, which were taken by roll call, as required by law.

Present: Mitch Wacksman , Acting Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Corinne Ketcham, Bruce Moore

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Acting Chair. Following a motion made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Day, Mr. Wacksman was designated Chair of the meeting.

2. Public Comment.

- Lulu Stoecklein - She is a middle school student who is proposing to make environmental improvements to the pond located south of Jordan Farm Rd, which is referred to as Pickle Pond. The pond has low oxygen levels and is prone to algal blooms. She gave a powerpoint presentation that included adding aquatic plants such as water lotus, and stocking the pond with fish.

The committee asked her to confirm with the state that these proposals comply with any state restrictions. Proposed plants are mostly native and she has expert advice from her teacher. The committee was generally supportive. She will provide a written description of her proposal to Ms. O'Meara and return to the December meeting with confirmation on state rules/permitting, specifically the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

- Ken Krogsrud, representing Tiny Trails, to request permission to run a race at Gull Crest on May 9th, 2021, 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., described an alternate route that would not include trails with boardwalks. They moved the race to Sunday to avoid any conflicts with Lacrosse games. The race will be run concurrent with other trail users. The race will include a donation to the Town of Cape Elizabeth to benefit the greenbelt. Ken will install a sign to alert other trail uses before the race. Ms. O'Meara will also work get a notice on the town website.

The committee thanked Mr. Krogsrud for responding to its concerns and voted 5-0 to grant permission to hold the race at Gull Crest as described.

- Grant Burgess lives at 216 Mitchell Rd and contacted the town regarding possible trail expansion on his property adjacent to the town owned properties on Forest Rd. This area is on the greenbelt plan as a potential trail. Chair Tasse walked the site with him. Mr. Burgess will speak with

his neighbor and Ms. O'Meara will contact the adjacent apartment complex owner.

3. The minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting were approved 5-0.
4. CIP Trails Assessment. Ms. O'Meara reviewed the priorities from the study, including the map linked to photos. She also shared estimated costs for replacing the Gull Crest boardwalks, and current budget commitments. The committee asked staff to get an estimate for completing all high priority work at Gull Crest. The boardwalk replacement would be for 3 boards wide, 2" -3" wide plus sleepers. Assume more sleepers will be needed with 2" boards. Boards should be 10' or 12' long with sleepers every 3' to 4' and cost should include removal of existing boardwalk.

The committee would like an estimate for other high priority sites, specifically the Scott Dyer to the Town Farm Trail, 1-16 and 1-27. Cross Hill and Stonegate should also be included. The committee agreed to also look at getting an estimate from Great Northern Docks for 100'.

These estimates will be used at the next meeting to put together a Capital Improvement request for budget consideration to the Town Council.

5. Two Lights Trail improvements. The committee acknowledged the increased funding request from eagle scout candidate John Gray for the previously approved Two Lights Trail improvements. The committee voted 5-0 to increase funding to the requested 2,921.15. The committee thanked Mr. Gray for the project.
6. Town Farm Trail. The committee received an email from Carol Fournier requesting that a trail be mowed from the Spurwink Ave parking lot onto the southern end of the Town Farm meadow and connect to the Town Farm trail. The committee voted 5-0 to add this to the seasonal trail maintenance program.
7. Lumber. Ms. O'Meara reported on information regarding lumber availability in the downeast area. The committee agreed not to purchase lumber now and that lumber must be pressure treated.
8. Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk. The committee recognized Philip Mathieu from CELT. He shared that CELT is working with the AP Environmental Sciences class and doing cores in the marsh. Ms. O'Meara reported that we are waiting to hear from Brian Alexander, who is interested in replacing the boardwalk.
9. Dyer Pond Trail. The committee has received complaints about dogs leaving the Dyer Pond Trail, trespassing on abutting property, and threatening family pets. The committee is not interested in changing town policy but wants to provide for mitigation at this location. Fencing was

suggested. Ms. O'Meara will meet with Mrs. Klopp on site to evaluate best mitigation.

10. Red House Trail (Canterbury). Mr. Wacksman and Mr. Craig noted emails and new trail building on the Mitchell Rd end of the Canterbury trails. Staff will add signs to this location reminding folks not add trails without permission.
11. Maxwell Woods. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the status of trails in the Maxwell Woods development. She attended a site visit with the applicant and his engineer and the trails are not ready to be open to the public yet.
12. Planning Board meeting. The committee reviewed the plans for the new 180' tall telecommunications tower proposed adjacent to the Recycling Center. The committee voted 5-0 to support the proposed new trail alignment.

The committee discussed how the nordic trails will be groomed this winter? Volunteers are needed to drive the snowmobile that is used for grooming (grooming sled is next to the potting shed at the community garden). There is a portion of the original loop that needs vegetation management and Mr. Craig may try to meet with Chris Thompson to show him where the work is needed. Mr. Thompson will be invited to the December 8, 2020 meeting as well.

The committee then reviewed the plans for the Magnolia Terrace Private Road and Resource Protection Permit. After a motion by Mr. Wacksman, seconded by Mr. Craig, the committee voted 5-0 that the application is complete.

Mr. Craig asked that the materials for Planning Board items be sent before the meeting.

13. Next meeting. The committee acknowledged the water body naming table and asked Ms. O'Meara to share the table as a google doc so that each member can enter their name selection. The next meeting will also include the CIP budget discussion. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.