**MEMORANDUM**

 TO: Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee

 FROM: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

 DATE: April 9, 2021

 SUBJECT: Gull Crest Maine Conservation Corps project

Introduction

The Town of Cape Elizabeth has applied for Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) assistance to replace 925' of existing boardwalk in Gull Crest, which has been identified as a high priority in the Trail Assessment Report. This seems to be a good opportunity to complete one of the most challenging projects on the priority list, and will need preparation to optimize the MCC team.

Project elements

The following is a working list of items to coordinate.

1. **MCC Team.** The Maine Conservation Corps is working to confirm that a 6 person team focused on bridge projects will take the project on. The original application requested fall scheduling, which is in less demand. The team camps out at the project site, but in the fall they request that some cover be provided. We are looking at potential buildings near Gull Crest where the team could camp indoors, with access to facilities.

2. **Budget.** The FY 2021 budget is essentially programmed. The proposed FY 2022 budget includes $40,000 for greenbelt improvements, available July 1, 2021. At this time, the committee has committed to boardwalk work on the Town Farm trail, with estimated cost of materials at $6,400 for the high priority improvements and $1,600 for the low priority improvements. The MCC team cost is $4,150 for a 6 person team for 1 week. Materials to complete the 1-38 Gull Crest boardwalk (925'+) is an estimated $21,000. Funding for contingencies should also be reserved.

FY 2022 Budget funding $40,000.00

Town Farm High Priority projects -6,400.00

Town Farm Low Priority projects -1,600.00

MCC Team -4,150.00

Gull Crest 1-38 project materials -21,000.00

Remaining FY 2022 $6,850

Commitment to this project will essentially push other trail improvements to 2022. Committee members have suggested that additional funding might be forthcoming from the community.

3. **Permitting.** Permitting for 1-38 is included in the Sebago Technics contract authorized last month, so it is reasonable to expect that state permitting will be in hand by fall. Local permitting will need to be obtained, but can be completed this summer.

4. **Lumber purchase/preplacement.** In order to optimize what the MCC team can complete, lumber should be purchased, (cut?) and placed along the boardwalk route shortly before the project will begin. An abutting landowner has previously granted permission to access the boardwalk from his property and permission should again be sought.

5. **Volunteers.** MCC teams like to gain experience supervising work teams as well as constructing trail improvements. The town's application committed to augmenting the team with volunteers. Volunteers and volunteer groups should be sought to preplace boards, assist with boardwalk construction, and haul out old boardwalk. Rental of an ATV to assist with this work should also be considered. Volunteer groups to consider include NEMBA, Boy Scouts, volunteers on the town list, etc.

6. **Public Information.** If the project is confirmed, and scheduling shapes up, the public should be notified of the project both to volunteer and to avoid the area during construction. Both the town website and the Greenbelt Gazette can be used.

7. **Other.** What else should be added to the project preparation list?

Next Steps

•The Conservation Committee should consider endorsement of this proposal. Note that commitment to this project will likely complete one of the most challenging greenbelt priorities, but will also preclude work on most other greenbelt trails for the year.

•A project schedule to complete the items above should be established and implementation should begin.