

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
Town Council Chambers

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Zach Matzkin, Philip Saucier, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. The minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Mr. Tasse opened discussion regarding trespassing from the greenbelt onto Alewives Brook Farm. Michael Coyne, representing the farm as manager of open space for 30 years, explained that people are cutting down trees on the farm to make trails. Sheila Wellehan was helpful in suggesting that he speak to the Conservation Committee.

Mr. Wacksman, who lives near the farm, asked where the trespassing was occurring. He is aware of sledding and skiing on the farm.

Mr. Tasse asked how recent this activity is? Mr. Coyne said he has noticed some activity in the last 5-8 years but is becoming critical now. People are entering into the field off Route 77 and walking dogs past hunters. He connected to the Cape Dog facebook group. One dog, "Chief," chased the deer into the woods. He has been installing signs at the approximately property boundary on existing trails that state "access by permission only" with a contact number.

Mr. Tasse said the committee had managed similar trespassing issues in the past with success. In addition to a sign, we install brightly colored rope across the trail. If the property owner would provide a trail license, we can help you. We have has success in greatly curbing trespassing in Canterbury.

Mr. Coyne said that he has provided his crew to help CELT build trails and provides a laminated card.

In further discussion about location where trespass is occurring, it appears that some is coming off of the CELT Great Pond Preserve II trails. Ms. O'Meara will provide Mr. Coye with contact information for Chris Schorn, CELT Stewardship Coordinator. She will also send Mr. Coyne a model

- license agreement. Mr. Wacksman will meet with Mr. Coyne onsite to evaluate trespass from town trails so that added signage can be installed.
3. Signs. The committee reviewed the final text for the consolidated sign to be manufactured and installed at greenbelt trail heads. They agreed to purchase 30 17" x 22" signs. The committee agreed to mail an information notice to area dog walking companies notifying them of the new rules, including the limit on the number of off-leash dogs (3) allowed.
  4. Storm damage. The committee reviewed remaining damage to trails. Work is still underway to clear trails at the Great Pond boardwalk and the Loveitt Woods/Glenden Rd access. Staff had to visit the Glenden Rd access to verify trees were on town property before arranging for clearing. The Conservation Committee agreed that it was appropriate to contact the abutting land owners again about a possible trail license.
  5. Sahrbeck/Cox trail. This is on hold pending update of map.
  6. Loveitt Woods. Mr. Tasse reported that approximately 200' of boardwalk was rehabilitated. Additional boards should be ordered this spring to finish work. The committee discussed and agreed not to install plaques at trail improvement projects. Instead, a report summarizing the Boy Scout contributions will be sent to the Town Council.
  7. Scott Dyer Trail license. Mr. Matzkin provided information that the town trail off Scott Dyer Rd is basically on an existing easement. The connection to Scott Dyer Rd needs to be cleared instead of using the Village Crossings driveway. Mr. Matzkin will meet onsite with Chris Thompson to identify where the trail vegetation will be maintained next year. This area should also be identified on the proposed RFP for possible boardwalk installation.
  8. Water body naming. The Conservation Committee approved the parameters of ponds of .75 acres or more in size and streams longer than 500' should be included in the naming project. Staff will prepare a property owner list associated with the water bodies to provide notice of the project. The committee would like to establish an online suggestion list on the website. The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society will also be notified.
  9. New members. Two remaining open seats remain on the committee. Members will encourage folks to apply when applications are reopened.

Committee members recognized members leaving the committee, including Zack Matzkin, Phil Saucier and Bob Pettit.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020.