

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Corinne Ketcham, Jim Tasse.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Public Comment. No member of the public wished to speak.
2. Minutes. The minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting were approved 5-0.
3. Greenbelt Management.

Outer Loop Boardwalk replacement. Chair Wacksman reported that he and 3 children added another 50' of boardwalk last weekend. We need 50 boards moved to the site and an estimated 25' sections to build. He has the hardware, chainsaw and impact driver needed.

Ms. Ketcham updated the committee that the Boy Scouts have been working on a trail project in Robinson Woods.

Chair Wacksman said another group effort is needed to finish the project. Ms. O'Meara has contacted Athletic Director Jeff Thoreck to ask for help and students will probably be available in November.

Ms. Day said that her neighborhood can probably organize another work event. Mr. Tasse said he is available midweek, not weekends, and Mr. Craig repeated the same. Mr. Craig is impressed with the mountain bikers that volunteered.

The committee agreed to schedule another work event for the weekend of October 23/24th [later confirmed as Saturday, October 23rd.] Volunteers to meet at the project site. Staff will publicize the event.

Tower Trail. The committee agreed the trail surface condition was satisfactory and no additional stump removal is necessary. Going forward, the trail does not need to have a grass surface.

Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk redecking. The committee asked if this will be completed this season? Ms. O'Meara has been in contact with Brian Alexander, who still intends to do the work this year. The committee confirmed that the funding is still available.

Gazette. The next issue should include an Outer Loop boardwalk update, and a reminder to stay on the greenbelt trail at Great Pond, rather than trespass on adjacent private property. Ms. O'Meara reported that after including a call to return the bench removed from the Spurwink River, it has been returned.

Town Farm Trail. The committee is very eager for the boy scout to complete the remaining boardwalk needed. Staff have been in contact with the scout and he has submitted his paperwork to complete this boardwalk as his eagle scout project. Mr. Craig suggested that an interim step may be to carry down boards to walk on till construction is done.

Glenden Rd. The committee noted with deep disappointment that the greenbelt trail connection at Glenden Rd has been fenced off by the abutters. The committee agreed to table next steps for now.

Great Pond. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the attempt by Tucker Jordan to close the Great Pond trail, for which the town purchased a pedestrian easement in 2009. Mr. Jordan's closure signs and game cameras were removed Friday evening and then returned to him on Monday, October 5th. He returned to Town Hall on October 6th to voice objections and also visited the Police Station, but did not make a complaint for theft of property as he earlier stated.

Staff recommended that remediation measures be taken to curb potential trespassing onto private property, consistent with general trail management techniques used at other town greenbelt locations. The committee agreed and noted that the Jordan family has given individuals permission to access their property. Philip Mathieu, CELT Education Program Director, explained that the Jordan family have made complaints about trespassers from the Great Pond Preserve II, and posted pictures, when those folks were on CELT property and monitoring it. CELT has installed more signage.

The committee voted 5-0 to support the following mitigation measures:

1. Install rope and signage at the trail fork on the northwest end to close the northerly fork.
2. Remove the branch structure located on private property adjacent to the easement and place the branches in the trail fork area to reinforce rope and signage.
3. Install rope and signage adjacent to the north corner of the major boardwalk.

Items 1 (partial) and 2 will require permission of the property owner, and staff will send a letter confirming that will be acceptable.

Maxwell Woods Trails. Ms. O'Meara provided an update, including very limited mowing to allow the areas adjacent to the trail to grow wide. The committee concurred.

4. Planning Board Review. No items on the October Planning Board meeting required Conservation Committee review. Ms. O'Meara suggested that the committee have a training session on reviewing Resource Protection Permit applications and Open space in new development at the November meeting. The committee agreed. Staff will provide a summary sheet as part of the training.
5. Remote Meeting Policy. Ms. O'Meara explained that the committee does not have the option to hold a remote meeting until it meets in person to adopt the Remote Meeting Policy, as drafted by the Town Council. The policy makes remote meetings an option, but the committee can choose to meet in person. The Remote Meeting Policy was adopted by a vote of 5-0.
6. Next meeting. The committee has been asked by a Town Councilor to provide comment on the Cape Arena proposal to be located at Gull Crest, which may be included in the next meeting, dependent on Town Council action. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.