

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Stacey Dietsch, Bruce Moore, Richard Sullivan.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Call to Order. Chair Ketcham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment. No one wished to speak.
3. Minutes. The minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting were approved 6-0.
4. Greenbelt Implementation/Management.

Dyer Woods Invasives project. The committee recognized David Dancause, who has submitted the first application under the Invasives Species Management policy adopted by the Conservation Committee. Mr. Dancause said he has already removed seed pods and understands the committee is concerned with leaving black plastic bags on town open space. There are 3 bags with debris stored at the woods line. He will move them onto his property. He could burn the contents next year rather than using the bag and bake method.

Mr. Moore questioned what disposal method Ecomaine uses for invasives.

Mr. De Vries supports moving the bags onto the Dancause property. Mr. De Vries asked if he gets enough sunlight for the bag and bake method and Mr. Dancause said only in the spring.

Chair Ketcham thanked him for going through the application process.

Mr. Dancause said the knotweed is young and went to seed this year. He wants to go back and dig up the knotweed so the roots don't grab on. He recommends that the detention pond be mowed more extensively to control purple loosestrife. Public Works should do more leaf collection or blow the leaves into the detention basin. The committee agreed that blowing leaves into the detention basin may compromise the function of the detention basin.

Mr. De Vries made a motion, seconded by Chair Ketcham, to approve the invasives application with the condition that the black bags be moved to the back of the property, which was approved 6-0.

Winnick Woods. Mr. Sullivan reported a deficiency of signage, specifically around the blue loop where he could not find the entrance from Sawyer Rd.

Ms. O'Meara reported additional public comments regarding signage deficiencies where experienced and new trail users are getting lost when signs are removed.

Mr. Moore, who is familiar with the Winnick Woods trails, volunteered to meet Ms. O'Meara to install signage. Mr. Sullivan volunteered to make 8 ½ x 11 plywood backings for the signs to be installed.

Big Wood/Gull Crest. Mr. De Vries reported that he will be working on the "Big Wood" portion of the Outer Loop Trail at Gull Crest to repair/replace individual failing boards. He estimates 9 boards to be replaced and he can source viable boards from the pile at the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk.

Scott Dyer Trail. Mr. Craig reported that he has made repairs and the boardwalk is fine for now.

Chair Ketcham thanked both members for the repair work.

Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk. Mr. De Vries reported that the redecking project is close to being finished, with about 30' left. All boards are screwed down and the railing is done.

Other trails. Mr. De Vries reported trees down on the Great Pond Trail, and then trees down at Gull Crest. Mr. Sullivan noted trees down on the Highlands Trail, Pine Ridge Road end. Mr. De Vries noted bottles at the Great Pond overlook, plus fishing tackle.

Gazette. The committee agreed that the Gazette should include a note about leaving no trace on trails, and picking up from community gatherings and fishing. The gazette should also include a call for volunteers to help with trail improvements. The committee agreed to reopen the Town Center Trail.

5. Spurwink Marsh Project. Ms. O'Meara made an informational presentation on the Spurwink Marsh/Sawyer Road project and potential grant funding.
6. Budget. The committee began a discussion about next year's budget. This year the greenbelt trails account was allocated \$40,000. Ms. O'Meara recommended that, consistent with a focus on open space management, the committee consider setting aside \$10,000 annually for tree work.

Mr. Craig asked about doing more permitting? The committee noted the FB Environmental Study and permitting already obtained for Winnick Woods/Cross Hill, Gull Crest, Town Farm (almost done), and Stonegate. For the next meeting, committee

members will review the FB Environmental projects list and bring their priorities to the meeting. Chair Ketcham noted that she had been contacted by the High School volunteer club and forwarding the inquiry to Ms. O'Meara for further coordination. Ms. O'Meara has emailed them, and will follow-up.

7. Next meeting. The committee will meet on December 13th and continue discussions about priorities, budget and signage replacement. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.