

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 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 hear votes, which were taken by roll call, as required by law.

Present: Jim Tasse, Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Christophe-Heijn De Vries, Corinne Ketcham, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse called the meeting to order and the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting were approved 6 - 0. No member of the public wanted to speak.
2. CIP Trails Assessment. Amanda Gavin and Maggie Kelly from FB Environmental gave a powerpoint presentation on the status of the assessment. They have completed visits to all town trails and prepared 159 site reports. The sites are summarized as follows:

New boardwalk locations	45
Boardwalk extensions	19
Boardwalk maintenance	45
No maintenance	50
TOTAL	159

Specific trails were reviewed as examples from each category with trail impact ratings.

The committee discussed seasonal wetness in contrast to trails that do need improvements. Ms. Gavin said this can be addressed with prioritizing and mapping. The next step will be to recommend improvements and site with high traffic/impact would have a higher priority ranking.

Mr. Tasse asked how the final product will translate to permitting? Ms. Gavin said permitting is not triggered for maintenance. Where new or boardwalk extensions are recommended, wetland mapping will be done within 75' of the improvement, 250' where a vernal pool is present, based on their best judgement as this is not the time of year to make definitive vernal pool determinations. The committee was pleased with the work to date.

FB expects to be complete in early August. They agreed to provide a draft report around August 6th, and to make a final presentation at the August 11th Conservation Committee meeting.

3. Greenbelt Implementation.

Two Lights Trail. Eagle Scout candidate John Gray attended the meeting and reviewed pricing for the boardwalk repairs on the Two Lights Trail. He will replace boards on 22 sections, plus rebuild the bridge. He reviewed the pressure treated wood list plus screws. Mr. Tasse confirmed that the project will be replacement in kind on width, length, etc. Three boards wide is the standard now and it was agreed that the two boards would be replaced and placed off-center on the supporting 4 x 4s so that a 3rd board can be added later when permitting is in place. The committee wants GRK T-30 head screws used for decking. Use timberlok for 6" screws. Mr. Gray said the bridge needs new supports. Mr. Tasse recommended buying 10% more wood and the upgraded screws. Target construction is for early summer with cutting off-site. Ms. O'Meara will coordinate on delivery.

The committee voted 6-0 to authorize up to \$2,000 for supplies for the Two Lights trail improvements.

Cross Town Trail(CTT) signage. Philip Mathieu, Education coordination for CELT, and intern Lila Gaudrault discussed improvements to the Cross Town Trail. Lila would like to improve the existing signage and add better documentation online of the trail. She will walk the trail and do an assessment. Mr. Wacksman asked what else this would include.? He described the CTT section from the Methodist Church to the school campus as problematic and would she refresh the CTT painted stencils? She would.

Mr. Wacksman asked about updating the CELT map and Mr. Mathieu said they have just updated their maps and going from paper to digital. Mr. Wacksman reviewed the history of committee coordination with CELT to come up with consistent signage for CTT and that if signage will change, he wants CELT to come back. Mr. Craig also wants the amount of signage to balance with a wilderness experience. Ms. O'Meara noted that she had the CTT medallions and stencils. Mr. Wacksman said that if you can solve the Methodist Church to the school signage problem, that would be a worthy effort.

Loveitt Woods. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the private access from Glenden Rd. One property owner has spoken with the town manager about changing the greenbelt map to not show the trail connection to Glenden Rd. The map has been changed. Neither property owner has responded to the letter sent from the committee in December, 2019. The committee remains interested in working with the property owners to address their concerns, and possibly compensate them. The committee discussed adding a loop at the trail end if the Glenden Rd access is closed. Staff should invite the property owners to the next committee meeting.

Tiger Lily Ln. Mr. Tasse asked for an update from the property owner who was going to provide an easement over the existing trail location. Ms. O'Meara has not heard from him. No change to the current trails in that area was proposed.

Gull Crest Outer Loop. Committee members agreed that work to repair the existing boardwalk needs to be finished. Wood has been hauled in. The committee agreed to meet on Sunday, June 14th beginning at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers should walk in from the Community Garden parking lot.

Ledgewood Ln. Ms. O'Meara reported that she is talking to and meeting property owners onsite with generally positive responses.

New trail head rules signs. There is consensus to remove old Greenbelt signage when the new trail rules signs are installed.

Sahrbeck. Mr. Tasse has completed flagging the Sahrbeck trail.

4. Water Body Naming Project. The committee reviewed the revised layout and approved deployment 6-0. The project will be online for the summer.
5. Planning Board. There are no items on the Planning Board agenda that require Conservation Committee review.
6. Next meeting. The committee agreed to cancel the July 14th meeting. The committee also directed staff to request a proposal from FB environmental for improvements to the Town Farm Trail. FB will start discussions on permitting with an elevated boardwalk similar to Great Pond, and be prepared to discuss other options. The next meeting will be August 11, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

