

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Jordan Conference Room

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

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse called the meeting to order and the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting were approved 5-0.
2. Eagle Scout Gray. The committee took item 5. Mr. Gray provided a conditions report for a bridge over a pond which is part of the Two Lights Trail. The bridge was originally constructed with mixed materials and boards are pulling away from the tree and tilting toward the water. The bridge consists of 24 pieces, 49" x 51/2" x 11/2" and 2 beams at 12' x 7 1/4" x 1 1/2". Mr. Gray will also replace existing rotted boards. No expansion of the boardwalk width or length can be included in the project. Also, no improvements to anything on the southeastern side of the pond can be done as this is private property.

Mr. Wacksman asked about the next steps and Mr. Gray will prepare a materials list. The project will include removal of the materials that are replaced. He will work on his scout proposal. Ms. O'Meara also offered to walk the trail with him to confirm he is within the town land/easement.

3. Trails CIP Assessment. The committee provided representatives in attendance who submitted a proposal to make comments.

Amanda Gavin, FB Environmental, explained that she is a trained wetlands delineator. FB Environmental has experience working with CELT on the Pollack Brook Preserve, has made trail recommendations, and prepared natural resources inventories (NRI). They worked on the South Portland Open Space Plan.

Steve Harding, Sebago Technics, is the Town Engineer and brought Dan Danvers and Mike Jacobowski from STI to the meeting. He said the budget is adequate and he will use a small team. He has done many projects for the town, including the Paper Street technical assessment for trail installation, the Pollack Brook bridge, and the recently completed culvert project.

Mike Zarbow, Milone and MacBroom, is excited about the project and his team will include John Adams, regional manager. The wetlands will be delineated by an environmental consultant. His firm has experience with boardwalk and trail planning in Saco, Gardner and York.

The committee initiated discussion and Mr. Craig noted the emailed preferences provided by Ms. Ketcham and Mr. Moore.

Mr. Wacksman asked about permitting required. Ms. O'Meara answered that we do need permitting, which is why this assessment will be done to allow some master permitting from the state. Sebago Technics has handled our state permitting.

Mr. Tasse noted the long history the town has with Sebago Technics. Mr. De Vries asked about the budget and Mr. Tasse said the difference in costs was within the budget.

Mr. Wacksman said that if our goal is permitting, we need the cleanest line to obtain those permits, and that may be having on hand the materials for the those permits.

Mr. Tasse asked how much wetland will be mapped, within 1,000' of the trail? Ms. O'Meara said that would depend on location and type of wetland. The first cut on scope would be use the town wetland mapping to estimate. The kick-off meeting would be a good point to work through these questions.

Committee members were asked to identify their choice based on the RFP criteria. Ms. Day felt FB Environmental best met the criteria with prioritizing improvements. Mr. Craig agreed, but also was willing to defer to the more senior CC members. Mr. De Vries also chose FB Environmental, but would also defer and be comfortable. Mr. Tasse noted prioritizing is good, but usage is also important which will be based on our on the ground knowledge. Both firms are capable. Ms. Day would like to give the new firm an opportunity and Mr. De Vries said they were a better value. Mr. Tasse noted that town staff has an established relationship with Sebago, but can adapt.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion to recommend Sebago Technics, seconded by Mr. Tasse. The motion failed 2-3.

Mr. Craig made a motion to recommend FB Environmental, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed 3-2.

Ms. O'Meara will bring the recommendation to the town manager, as the contract will be with the Town of Cape Elizabeth.

4. Planning Board agenda. The committee reviewed the application for the Edgecomb Way Private Road extension, that includes 3,988 sq. ft of RP2 wetland alteration to provide access for \pm 3 lots. Scouring protection has been added as requested by the CC. Committee members asked if the permit could be denied. Ms. O'Meara explained that RP Permits to construct access to upland areas are the most common type of RP permits and that , if the activity is otherwise permitted, review focuses on compliance with performance standards such as erosion control, maintaining water flows, etc. Mr. Wacksman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Day, to recommend that the permit be issued, and the motion passed 5-0.
5. Joint training. Ms. O'Meara asked the Conservation Committee if they would be interested in a joint training session with the Planning Board? This training would feature a review of the newly adopted comprehensive plan. The training would be held on April 7th, at 6 pm and pizza would be provided. Committee members would like to participate.
6. Boardwalk standard. The committee discussed a standard for boardwalks. They agreed to a minimum 30" wide boardwalk, which could be attained with 3 3"x 10" boards spaced to attain 30". The standard would include 4 x 6 joists and 4"x4" sleepers, 4'-6' apart.

Mr. De Vries asked about handicapped accessibility. The committee discussed that goal and how the standards may not be adaptable in a rustic trail setting. Would the minimum width need to be 32"? No decision was made at this time.
7. Trail closure. The committee discussed current trail conditions and expected weather. They agreed that trail closure was not needed at this time and that all members would continue to monitor conditions.
8. Next meeting. The committee reviewed the agenda for the next meeting and adjourned at 8:50 p.m.