

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 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, Bruce Moore, Mitch Wacksman

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Mr. Tasse called the meeting to order and the minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting were approved 7- 0. No member of the public wanted to speak.
2. Greenbelt projects. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on the eagle scout Two Lights trail project to be done by Jim Gray. Ms. O'Meara will meet him onsite to confirm the public trail location.

Ms. Day reported her observations as part of the Hobstone easement monitoring report.. It is close to the tennis courts.

Ms. O'Meara gave a status report on the Conservation Committee interest in the trail that connects Ledgewood Ln and Pilot Point Rd. She has sent letters to the property owners and is getting positive responses.

The committee asked about scheduled replacement of the Spurwink Marsh boardwalk, and needed improvements to the Town Farm and Gull Crest Outer Loop Trail.

On the Outer Loop Trail, the committee discussed making immediate board replacements, which is maintenance and does not need permitting. If the boardwalk will be replaced *and expanded or extended*, permitting is needed. Mr. Wacksman said we have 30 boards in stock for replacement. It needs to rebuilt in its entirety but he questions the feasibility of that except in winter. Mr. De Vries and Mr. Tasse agreed it needs replacement. Mr. Craig confirmed that the old wood would be removed and how is that disposed of? Ms. O'Meara said that if the wood can be moved to the end of the gravel road, Public Works can pick it up and dispose of it at the recycling center. We would be responsible for disposal fees, which have not been excessive. The committee confirmed that pressure treated wood

(pt) has been reformulated to be less toxic. The committee generally agreed to made repairs now due to safety concerns.

A trail work event will be held on Thursday, May 21st beginning at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the end of the gravel road running behind the recycling center. Mr. Wacksman has timberlock screws and Ms. O'Meara will ask PW to deliver the wood. The event will be limited to 10 people who will wear masks. Staff will also contact a private property owner to explore a closer access point.

Mr. Tasse will finish the work in Loveitt Woods on May 14th with help from a friend. There is about 60' left of work to do.

Mrs. Ketcham asked a question about the perimeter trail at the Town Farm. Is there interest in extending the trail around the entire parcel? Committee members noted that the Spurwink Marsh trail is very wet. It was agreed that this should be picked in the Trail Assessment and then mitigation can be discussed at that time. Ms. Day asked about the trail from the pump station on Spurwink Ave.

Mr. Tasse noted that there is a lot of pent up enthusiasm to make trail improvements. Mr. Wacksman said some things are "taking care of themselves." Winnick Woods is fixed.

Ms. O'Meara said she had a phone call about muddy trails at Rockcrest Drive.

Ms. Ketcham called attention to the email asking the Conservation Committee to install social distancing signage on town trails. The committee discussed the signs installed by CELT, the general public information already available recommending masks and distancing and current behavior. Ms. Day made a motion that signage be installed on the Winnick Woods trails reminding people to social distance and to respect trail users. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4 (Craig, De Vries, Ketcham, Wacksman).

3. Planning Board review. No item on the Planning Board agenda required Conservation Committee review.
4. Next meeting. The next meeting of the Conservation Committee will be held on June 9, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.