

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Michelle Boyer, Emily Helliesen Day, Matthew Grymek, Bruce Moore.

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.

Randy Hogan, Scarborough Conservation Committee Chair – She would like to speak about the Sawyer Road/Spurwink Marsh Restoration project. Five Scarborough Conservation Commission members spoke at last week's Town Council workshop. Tomorrow night is the first reading on the project at the Scarborough Town Council meeting and the Conservation Commission will be attending that meeting because if it does not pass, the project will not go forward. The project was previously on your meeting agenda and she asks the Cape Conservation Committee to speak at the Town Council meeting. She has heard the arguments from the opposition and they don't make sense, focusing on legacy and questioning cost, but those arguments don't hold true. The project will cost less than \$200,000 for each town. She wants to hear the committee's thoughts.

Mr. Moore asked if the Town Council is taking written comments. Ms. Hogan said yes, and also in person. Her experience last week was the speakers at the meeting had more weight. The Scarborough Conservation Commission has both written comments and spoke at meetings. We expect this to pass in Scarborough, and not pass in Cape Elizabeth.

The committee discussed how they might provide comment. The committee agreed to draft comments as a group at the end of the meeting.

3. Minutes. Mr. Grymek noted that his name is misspelled. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mrs. Ketcham, and the motion passed 5-0.
4. Winnick Woods Invasives Removal Project review. The committee reviewed proposals from Starrett Snow and Landscaping and Tammara Landscaping. The committee questioned if the proposals included both the trail and parking lot area in the two days of work. Ms. O'Meara will confirm that both areas are included. If both areas are

included, the committee recommended that Tammaro be selected. If the bid is limited to one area, then the project should be discussed by the committee next month.

5. Greenbelt Management.

Lumber retrieval. Ms. O'Meara reported that Mr. Wacksman provided locations and Chris Thompson will pick up the lumber at the end of October and return it to Public Works. The lumber located at Gull Crest in the area behind the Malley home will be picked up by Public Works. She also noted the reports of tree work needed and has shared that out to a volunteer, the Tree Warden and Chris Thompson.

Trail Permitting. Ms. O'Meara updated the Conservation Committee on the progress. The local permit application will be submitted for the November 18th Planning Board meeting. The state permit is in process.

Stonegate boardwalk repairs. The committee described boardwalks needing repairs, including pictures provided. Best access is from trail adjacent to 19 Stonegate and Dyer Pond Rd. Ms. O'Meara reported that she had someone scheduled to make the repairs. Mrs. Ketcham asked that after the repairs are done, the projects should be removed from the list.

Other Trail Work.

Great Pond. Ms. O'Meara reported on the trash at Great Pond. A member of the public suggested the town deploy a PVC pipe for fishermen to deposit fishing line. The Conservation Committee discussed and decided against this, in part due to concerns with staffing to clean out the pvc pipe.

Gazette. The next issue should include the Great Pond trash issue.

Staff support for field work. The committee discussed the difficulty in getting general boardwalk repairs done. The committee discussed adding a town employee that would work at Public Works and a portion of their time (50-30%) would be for boardwalk work. Access to the SMCC building program was suggested, as was getting high school student volunteers. The committee acknowledged that student volunteers require supervision and have limited skills, so we still have a staffing gap. The committee will discuss this again in advance of municipal budget preparation in January.

Sawyer Rd letter. Ms. O'Meara projected a blank document onto the wall, and the committee members dictated the letter they want to send to the Town Council. After the letter was revised, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ketcham, to email the comment letter to the Town Council and the motion passed 5-0.

6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.