

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2025

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

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. Mr. Moore made a motion to accept the October 14, 2025 minutes, seconded by Ms. Day, and the motion passed 6-0.
4. Greenbelt Implementation

Village Green event. The committee reviewed a request by the Cape Courier to hold the Annual Community Tree Lighting event on Friday, December 12th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Day made a motion to approve the event, seconded by Mr. Wacksman, and the motion passed 6-0.

Eagle Scout project. Hudson Charlebois, Eagle Scout candidate, made a presentation for 3 trail improvement projects at Gull Crest. Staff summarized the permitting obtained for projects in the area. From the FB Environmental Study, project 1-19 could be up to a 24' long boardwalk. Project 1-18 can be up to 52'. The third project is not permitted at this time.

The committee agreed to merge projects 1-18 and 1-19, which would closely align with the Charlebois proposal. The boardwalk would be built to the side of the trail because this trail is also used for Nordic skiing. Committee members noted that the opportunity to ski has been reduced by less snowfall.

Ms. Day asked when the project would be constructed, and Mr. Charlebois suggested April-May. This time of year can be muddy.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion to approve up to \$1,200 for supplies for the project, with the expectation that existing lumber stored at Public Works would be used as well, for projects 1-18 and 1-19. Ms. Boyer would like to get feedback from the Nordic ski group. Members noted that the committee had met with the Nordic representatives at this site and there was general agreement to place the improvement to the side of the trail. Mr. Moore seconded the motion and it passed 5-1 (Boyer).

Mrs. Ketcham reminded the committee that the Boy Scouts can use the power wagon. Ms. O'Meara asked Mr. Charlebois to let her know when he wants to use it so she can arrange for access. Mr. Wacksman recommended that 4x4x4 be installed at each boardwalk end so the boardwalk ends do not flop.

Winnick Woods. Ms. O'Meara provided an update that Tammara Landscaping will be moving ahead with the invasives removal project this month and Jeff Tarling, Tree Warden, will refresh the plant markings.

Lumber Retrieval. Ms. O'Meara said it has been completed, with thanks to Mr. Wacksman, Chris Thompson and Public Works.

Trail Permitting. The local permitting is on the November 18th Planning Board agenda. State permitting is pending.

Stonegate improvements. The greenbelt improvement inventory needs to be updated with the latest improvements.

Gull Crest trail rerouting. This has been completed by Mr. Wacksman with no neighbor impact.

Other trail work. No other projects were mentioned.

Gazette. The committee wants to remind boat owners to retrieve their canoes from the racks at Great Pond for the season.

Mr. Wacksman noted the purple paint marking at the Great Pond Trail. We presume this was done by an abutter to the trail, perhaps to provide guidance to hunters.

5. Planning Board Review. The committee reviewed the Resource Protection Permit application submitted by the Town for greenbelt trail improvements. Mrs. Ketcham made a motion to recommend completeness of the application, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the motion passed 6-0. Mr. Wacksman made a motion to recommend issuance of the Resource Protection Permit, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the motion passed 6-0.

The committee asked about the status of the Sawyer Rd project and staff reported the project is ending.

6. Next meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be December 9, 2025. Mrs. Ketcham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.