

**Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Stacey Dietsch, Bruce Moore.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Call to Order. Chair Ketcham called the meeting to order at 7:04.
2. Election of Officers. Mr. Moore nominated Corrine Ketcham as Chair, seconded by Ms. Dietsch. Nominations ended and Ms. Ketcham was elected chair 4-0. Mr. Moore nominated Ms. Day as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Dietsch. Ms. Day nominated Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Dietsch and also withdrew her name from consideration. Mr. Craig was elected 4-0.
3. Public Comment. No one wished to speak.
4. Minutes. The December 13, 2022 minutes were approved 4-0.
5. Planning Board Review.

The committee noted the presentation made by Robert Metcalf, Mitchell and Associates, on behalf of Roots Academy at the last meeting. They have now submitted the application for a Resource Protection Permit to alter up to 1,000 sq. ft. to create a nature trail located in the RP1 buffer adjacent to the school located at 2 Davis Point Ln. The committee reviewed the plans submitted to the Planning Board.

Chair Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to recommend the application is complete. The motion passed 4-0. The committee noted its earlier discussion about appropriate disposal of invasive materials removed in construction of the trail.

Chair Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dietsch, to recommend issuance of a Resource Protection Permit with the caveat that there be a plan for invasive plan material disposal. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Greenbelt Management.

Signage. Ms. O'Meara reported that we are waiting on new gps data on trails at Cross Hill/Winnick Woods, then will update the maps and install new signage.

Great Pond Boat Rack. Ms. O'Meara reported that a proposal to build a new rack has been provided and the goal is to have the rack built by end of March.

Gazette. The committee would like to include the concert by Vigorous Tenderness at Gull Crest, which was well attended and well-received. A reminder to stay off Nordic skiing groomed trails at Gull Crest should be included.

7. Budget. The committee discussed the budget request for FY 2024. Due to labor shortages, most of the FY 2023 budget has not yet been spent on trail improvements. The committee agreed to reduce its annual request from \$40,000 to \$20,000 this year, motion by Chair Ketcham, seconded by Mr. Moore and voted 4-0.
8. Next meeting. The committee moved the February meeting from the 14th to February 8th due to members traveling. At the meeting, the committee will review FOAA rules, priority setting and easement monitoring. Items for the March meeting include a presentation from the Tree Warden (pending) and South Street open space trail volunteer project. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.