

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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 votes, which were taken by roll call, as required by law.

Present: Jim Tasse, outgoing Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Christophe-Heijn De Vries, Corinne Ketcham, Bruce Moore, Mitch Wacksman incoming Chair

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Election of Officers.

Chair Tasse asked for nominations for chair. Committee members discussed candidates and eventually settled on a nomination for Mr. Wacksman, nominated by Ms. Day. Mr. Wacksman was elected unanimously. He accepted the "honor and privilege," designated Ms. Day as vice chair (unofficially), and continued with the meeting agenda.

2. Citizen comments.

Madelene Cyr, 7 Russet Ln - She sent the committee an email concerned with e cigarette pod litter at Fort Williams and on town trails.

The committee asked Ms. O'Meara how this applied to the committee. She explained that she has forwarded the email to the staff responsible for Fort Williams. The new trail head signs include rules that prohibit any alterations on the trails. Do you want to add more signage?

Ms. Ketcham noted that cigarettes are banned on public property, including the school campus.

Chair Wacksman thanked Ms. Cyr for sharing her comments and prohibition against litter is in current town policies.

Ms. Cyr added that she sees epods mostly at Fort Williams. She has a beagle and the pods include chemicals dangerous to dogs as well as humans. She wants no smoking and other signage installed.

The committee discussed adding signage, such as noting that no smoking applies to vaping. Mr. Craig noted that the City of Portland provides free signage. He asked if we are talking about a new sign?

Mr. Tasse suggested adding a new sign, temporary or with a sticker. The committee discussed applicability to Fort Williams, and also providing a letter to the Cape Courier. Ms. O'Meara talked about the effort and cost to install the new signs and efficacy of adding more signage. Instead, she can issue another greenbelt trails release and remind folks not to dispose of litter, epods, etc, which can be posted to the town website and circulated to media. The committee agreed to this.

3. Minutes. The minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting were approved.
4. Water Body Naming project.

The committee reviewed a spreadsheet that listed all the suggested names by water body. The committee agreed to recommend the following names:

ID #	Recommended Name (Bold are already designated names)
S1	SPURWINK RIVER
S2	Fowler Stream
S3	WILLOW BROOK
S4	Lions Stream
S5	Moon-Lit Canal
S6	Town Farm Stream
S7	Mahoney Stream
S8	Marshy Stream
S9	Salty Stream
S10	Tidal Stream
S11	Dartcast Beck
S12	Ziggy Stream
S13	Whispering Stream
S14	Turking River
S15	Charmed Run
S16	Dyer Brook
S17	Sandy Brook
S18	POLLACK CREEK
S18-5	Park Stream
S19	Bula Brook
S20	The Moat
S21	Teddy Brook
S22	Higgins Stream
S23	Windbour Beck
S24	Cottage Stream
S25	Wims Brook
S26	Mack River
S27	Hicks Beck
S28	Monks Stream
S29	Rebels Run
S30	Bolt Run

S31	Blissful Alley
S32	Cattails Brook
S33	Turtle Eggs Stream
S34	Kettle Cove Stream
S35	Spinnaker Stream
S36	Little Spinnaker Stream
S37	ALEWIFE BROOK
S38	Catan Stream
S39	
S40	Canal Stream
S41	Slippery Rocks Brook
S42	Farris Stream
S43	Zeb Cove Stream
S44	POND COVE BROOK
S45	Foxen Channel
S46	Harmony Run
S47	Warblers Stream
S48	Waterthrush Stream
S49	Delano Brook
S50	TROUT BROOK
S51	Rippling Stream
S52	Mitchell Stream
S53	Nigawes
S54	
S55	
S56	Purpoodock Stream
S57	

P1	SPURWINK RIVER
P2	GREAT POND
P3	Robinson Pond
P4	LITTLE POND
P5	Eider Pond
P6	Turtle Pond
P7	Wood Duck Pond
P8	Purpoodock Pond
P9	Arching Run
P10	Saunkskwak
P11	Snapping Turtle Pond
P12	Hannaford Cove Pond
P13	Crescent Pond
P14	
P15	
P16	Lions Pond
P17	Cottage Farms School Pond
P18	Pollack Pond
P19	Pond Cove Pond
P20	Fairway Pond
P21	RICHARDS POND

*Names in **Bold** are official and not proposed for renaming.

A final draft summarizing the committee decisions will be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. Budget. The committee reviewed a budget recommendation for account 640-4114, which funds greenbelt trail improvements.

Chair Wacksman asked if it was appropriate to reference the CIP request for \$80,000 in the narrative for this account? Ms. O'Meara responded that there are new town councilors and included the reference to avoid confusion that funding under this account and the CIP account are requested.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tasse, to recommend funding of \$19,000 as described. The motion passed 7-0.

6. Greenbelt Trails management.

Town Farm Trail: The committee discussed the preferred design for the Town Farm trail boardwalk. The committee agreed that the number of timbers should be increased so that sleepers can be installed every 4'. The committee also discussed the total length of boardwalk to request for permitting. Mr. Tasse suggested rounding to 350', and Chair Wacksman suggested 400' in light of committee experience. Committee members noted that the Trail Assessment report, which included measurements, accurately reflects current conditions in its recommendations. Mr. Moore recommended that the total boardwalk length be increased 20% and the committee agreed. They also directed Ms. O'Meara to check on permit timing.

Ocean Ave to Woodland trail: Ms. O'Meara displayed the potential trail location map. In response to a letter of inquiry, she has heard from the Woodland South property owner who is definitely not interested in hosting a trail. The Browns have expressed reservations in the past. Ms. Day asked if the Burgess property could host a trail connection to Mitchell Rd and Mr. Tasse said that they do not want the trail near their house. The committee agreed to suspend further work on the potential trail. Ms. O'Meara will update Mr. Burgess.

Nordic Trail Grooming: Chair Wacksman reported that the Nordic Club met to look at options. They are getting the drag sled repaired. The snowmobile used for grooming is broken, and Publics Works is still trying to obtain the parts needed for repair, but the age of the machine is making that difficult. The Nordic Club discussed buying a 4 wheeler with tracks for grooming, but do not have funds. South Portland uses a 4 wheeler from grooming and it works well, but it is not available to borrow. Providing groomed skiing in Gull Crest is still under discussion.

Town Farm trail connector: Chair Wacksman noted extending the existing Town Farm trail loop to connect to Spurwink Ave across from the paved parking lot. Ms. O'Meara will contact Chris Thompson about this section.

Grooming: Mr. Tasse asked about combining fat bike grooming with ski grooming. He is skeptical about investing in a 4 x 4, but maybe supports purchasing a snowmobile that would also groom for fatbikes or snowshoes. With no snow, however, potential donors are not motivated.

Chair Wacksman noted poor snow conditions for the last 3 years. We can spend \$10,000 for a snowmobile or \$15,000 for a 4 x 4. There is another Nordic Club meeting next week. Is it ok to help with fundraising? Sell the current snowmobile and put the proceeds toward another machine? Conservation Committee members generally did not want to provide financial support. There is not enough snow to make it worth the effort. Chair Wacksman said he would talk only about maintenance then. Mr. Craig noted that there is at least 1 culvert dislodged on the nordic trail and Ms. O'Meara will ask Public Works about replacement.

Great Pond private trails: The committee noted that private trails on the Jodie Jordan property that connect to the Great Pond trails have been posted no trespassing. The Conservation Committee engaged in conversations previously which dead ended.

Philip Mathieu, CELT Stewardship coordinator - He shared that CELT is aware of the situation and monitoring. There were conversations at an earlier purchase with no resolution.

Hockey Pond: There is a casual trail around the pond located in the Bill Jordan farm near Hockey Pond Rd. There have been angry Facebook posts regarding posting. Ms. O'Meara confirmed that the public access trail stops about 40' from the pond and the property owner can post it no trespassing.

7. Planning Board review. No Planning Board items need committee review.
8. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on February 9th and will include final review of the Water Body Naming recommendations and next steps for permitting per the Trails Assessment report. The 2021 meeting schedule was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.