

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 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: Mitch Wacksman, Chair, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, Christophe-Heijn De Vries, Corinne Ketcham, Bruce Moore.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Minutes. The minutes of the January 12, 2021 were approved 6-0.
2. Water Body Naming Project. Chair Wacksman acknowledged written comments submitted by Philip Mathieu, Stewardship Coordinator, CELT. The comments were excellent and should be incorporated. Committee members noted that Nigawes did not have a designation and the word "stream" was added.

Mr. Moore made a motion to recommend the Water Body Names to the Town Council with the amendments, including the CELT letter, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was approved 6-0.

3. Greenbelt Implementation Projects.

CELT/Robinson Woods. Chair Wacksman recognized Philip Mathieu, who presented proposed changes and improvements to the trail network on Robinson Woods III. CELT will focus on tidying efforts, then consider relocating the pond trail. He is presenting the information to receive committee input in advance of submitting changes to the Planning Board (wetland alterations). CELT is looking to relocate the access from Robinson Woods III to the Shore Rd (located south of the Olde Colony Rd neighborhood) to firmer ground. They will also look at closing some cross field trails as part of field management.

Chair Wacksman supports preserving the trail links to the neighborhoods. Ms. Day agreed that the areas identified are wet. Mr. Mathieu said they are improving the connection to Shore Rd to facilitate a "big loop." There is also lots of wildlife on the property and spreading out the trail usage should complement that. There is a coyote den on the property.

Mr. Mathieu identified a priority to reduce invasives. There is also interest in obtaining an ADA grant with emphasis on access at Turkey Hill Farm. CELT is limited to adding ADA parking at Robinson Woods.

The committee consensus is that the improvements will be beneficial and thanked Mr. Mathieu for the update.

Town Farm Trail. The committee expects the Town Farm Trail permit to be submitted as soon as possible so that the work can begin in the spring as soon as conditions permit. Ms. O'Meara will check with FB Environmental.

Gull Crest improvements. Ms. O'Meara has submitted an application for MCC assistance to help replace 1200' feet of boardwalk at Gull Crest in September/October 2021.

Assessment Priorities. Chair Wacksman supports obtaining permits needed for projects in Cross Hill and Stonegate so that we can accept some of the volunteer offers to do the work. Ms. Day supports pursuing Cross Hill as a priority. Chair Wacksman suggested that some donations for lumber purchase might also be available.

Ms. O'Meara explained that permitting of multiple improvement projects grouped by property would be more efficient and estimated permit costs at \$3,000 for each property. She asked if the committee preferred FB Environmental or Sebago Technics (STI), as both firms have worked on permits. The committee discussed splitting the two permits between the firms, but at staff's request to streamline coordination responsibilities agreed work with one firm and chose STI.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, to authorize permitting for improvement projects at Cross Hill and Stonegate, which passed by a vote of 5-0 (Craig absent).

Tower and trail access closure. Ms. O'Meara explained that a trail link in Gull Crest will need to be closed temporarily to accommodate the construction area for the new telecommunications tower. The committee was not opposed to a temporary closure.

Nordic Trail. Chair Wacksman reported that he met with Chris Thompson to show the location of the nordic trail section which has not been maintained. CELT had bush hogged it. Mr. Craig said he skied it today and it is functioning and packed

down, but not sure if it was groomed. Chair Wacksman confirmed that the snowmobile residing at Public Works has been repaired.

4. Planning Board meeting. Ms. O'Meara explained that no projects had been submitted for review, so the Planning Board will be holding a special workshop on a referral from the Town Council for Town Center Affordable Housing amendments.
5. Newsletter. Ms. O'Meara will be preparing a pilot greenbelt newsletter as a way to address ongoing trail user request to address inconsiderate behavior, such as epod littering. The committee suggested including a reminder to not leave dog waste bags on town open space.
6. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 9th and the agenda will include an update on permitting for priority greenbelt improvements. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.