

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Staff: Sullivan McCarthy; Assessing, Codes, & Planning Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chair Ketcham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Citizen comments: No citizens present.

3. Minutes: Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Wacksman; the motion passed 5-0. After the minutes were approved, at 7:05, Michelle Boyer and Stacy Dietsch entered the meeting.

4. Greenbelt Implementation/Management Projects:

- Boy Scout proposals: Ms. Ketcham recused herself from the item, due to a conflict of interest. Finn Ketcham presented a proposal to repair an old bridge/boardwalk and to build a new bridge on the Dyer Woods trail loop. He requested \$1000.00 to complete project. There was discussion among the committee to extend length of new bridge. Mr. Wacksman motioned to approve project with up to \$1500.00 in expenditures. Motion was seconded by Mr. Moore. Motion passed 6-0.

- Schedule Winnick Woods invasives management site visit: Committee deliberated on actions required. Committee decided to schedule site walk with arborist to determine scope of project to obtain accurate quote. Committee determined three potential dates: 04/23/25, 04/24/25, and 04/26/25. It was decided staff would reach out to arborist to schedule times.

- Other trail work:

Bike group volunteer project: Board discussed proposal by bike organization to volunteer to complete a major trail project. Board discussed potential projects, walking the project site with the group, and decided to wait till next meeting to determine.

Application from Mike Andora of Greater Portland New England Mountain Bike Association to use trails for group rides: Committee reviewed application for group rides. Proposal included multiple Wednesdays and a Saturday or Sunday, with potentially serving food after the race. Application stated intentions to potentially park at 155 Spurwink Ave, or at Gull Crest for a Saturday event. Staff stated that Gull Crest is a multi-use facility and to approve the application, a date would need to be provided. Staff raised the concern about food being provided post ride and stated applicant would need to connect with code enforcement about obtaining a food truck permit. Ms. Ketcham made motion to partially approve application for rides on Wednesdays with no food service. Motion was seconded by Mr. Moore. Motion passed 7-0

Town Farm Trail: Committee discussed the effects of mud season on the town trail and methods to reduce risk impact. Committee decided to move a boardwalk and trail rope divider to higher ground. The date was set for April 15, 2025 at 5:30PM with a notice to the public.

Cross Hill Loop Status Report: Committee discussed reaching out to Chris Cyr of Sanctuary Trailworks to determine if trail should be closed for mud season. There was discussion of Cyr's proposal of completing more trail work for \$2500.00. Committee to contact Cyr to determine scope of work of proposal and the status of mud on the trail.

Email from Dan Chase regarding yard waste cleanup: Committee reviewed email from resident suggestion that Public Works delay yard waste cleanup until temperatures are above 50 degrees to benefit wildlife. Committee deliberated if it was in their jurisdiction to approve delaying transfer station hours of operation and requirements. Ms. Boyer is to contact Public Works to determine jurisdiction. Committee decided to add item onto next month's agenda.

Trails Bond: The committee determined they should wait to apply for grants until after they have finalized priority projects list and attended future trainings on application process.

Greenbelt Gazette: The committee suggested the following items for the next Gazette: warning about mud season and potentially closing trails based on Cyr's analysis of trails.

6. Planning Board Review: There were no items to review.

7. Next meeting: The next meeting of the committee will be held on May 13, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.