

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Michelle Boyer, Emily Helliesen Day, Bruce Moore, Richard Sullivan

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 member of the public wished to speak.
3. Minutes. Ms. Day made a motion, seconded by Chair Ketcham, to approve the April 11, 2023 meeting minutes, which passed 5-0.
4. Conservation Event Amendment. Ms. O'Meara reviewed the draft amendment based on a prior discussion by the Conservation Committee. It includes increasing the size of the event that requires only committee approval from 150 to 250 attendees and allows for some revenue generation for for-profit events.

The committee discussed how the revenue portion would work. Mr. Moore asked about in-kind contributions. Many proposed events have a public benefit so the revenue generation is tailored to events that have a higher profit potential for the sponsor.

Chair Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to recommend the Conservation event amendments to the Town Council for consideration, and the motion passed 5-0.

5. Greenbelt Management

MCC Trails event. The committee recognized Mitch Wacksman, former CC Chair, who has scoped out the neediest trail improvements at Gull Crest and the Town Farm in preparation for the MCC Team work at the end of June. He recommends replacing the improvements to 1-45 with less boardwalk construction (estimated 25') and trail relocation to an upland area/closure of the problematic portion of the trails. He also stated that 1-47 appears to be shown in the wrong location on the map, identified the correct location, and recommended the boardwalk be installed.

The committee reviewed the priority list for MCC projects and agreed to adjust the priorities following the site visit [subsequently held on May 31st with MCC team leaders, Mitch Wacksman, CC member Emily Helliesen Day and Town Planner Maureen O'Meara]. Staff will provide Mr. Wacksman with an 11 x 17 area map in preparation for the site visit. The committee reviewed the estimated materials costs and, following a motion by Mr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Day, voted 5-0 to approve the budget. NEMBA

will be approached to borrow the impact drivers, which were provided for the last MCC project.

Machine Built Trails RFP. The committee reviewed the proposal submitted by Maine Trail Builders with a ½ mile option of 21,120 and a 1.1 mile option of \$46,464. The committee reviewed the funding available in FY 2023 and anticipated funding for FY 2024. They discussed refining what portions of the trail identified needed work and sections where existing conditions are acceptable. This would need to be refined with the contractor, probably with an on-site visit.

Mr. Wacksman suggested calling Rob Lavoie for information on the Gorham Trails building experience.

The committee would like to explore less costly options. Chair Ketcham made a motion to table the discussion to the June meeting, seconded by Ms. Boyer and the motion passed 5-0.

Outer Loop Trail flooding. The committee reviewed the report provided by FB Environmental. They discussed and agreed not to pursue water quality testing. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Day to take no further action at this time and the motion passed 5-0.

Other Trail work. Ms. Day noted that planks have been removed from an existing boardwalk off Dyer Pond Rd, and Ms. O'Meara will work on getting them replaced.

The Canterbury Trail relocated onto the Cottage Brook easement has been pushed back onto Canterbury. More work is needed to again relocate the trail.

Mr. Moore noted that a curb has been pushed under the sign at the Winnick Woods parking lot and Ms. O'Meara will work with Public Works on a relocation.

Ardath Dixon, CELT Stewardship Coordinator, reported that the Gull Crest Invasives removal project with Chickadeeds went well. Mr. Moore asked where the invasive materials were removed to? Some material was left onsite because it will decay without further invasive growth and the remainder was removed by the Public Works Department. New trees were planted and seed bombs to encourage wildflower growth were used.

Gazette. The committee would like to include items on the community boat, events, MCC Team, changes to trails at the landfill edge and appreciation for the Chickadeeds event.

6. Planning Board review. The committee reviewed the Planning Board agenda. Ms. O'Meara noted changes to the solar site plan and the committee had no further comment on the trail changes as long as connectivity is preserved.
7. Next meeting. The next meeting is June 13th. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.