

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Michelle Boyer, Matt Craig, 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 one wanted to speak on items not on the agenda.
3. Minutes. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Day, to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes and the motion was approved 6-0.
4. Planning Board review.

Carr Woods. The committee asked Ms. O'Meara for a summary of the Conservation Committee focus on the review and Ms. O'Meara identified the Resource Protection Permit and open space review of the subdivision. Chair Ketcham suggested that a greenbelt sign be installed on Shore Rd at the head of the pedestrian easement connection to Loveitt Woods. Ms. Day asked about adding land west of units 8 and 9 to the open space parcel to be deeded to the town. In response to a question, Ms. O'Meara described the condo docs open space preservation language in sec. 9.2(d).

Chair Ketcham opened the meeting to public comment.

Ben Morrill, 981 Shore Rd, would like the condo documents updated to not refer to athletic fields unless the open space will include athletic fields. He wants more information on where trees will be removed.

Eric Johansson, 2 Rocky Hill Rd, noted that trees have fallen in the area to be designated as open space.

Public comment ended.

Chair Ketcham made a motion to recommend approval, followed by committee discussion.

Ms. Day made a motion that:

- the RP2 wetlands include a 10' buffer,
- language about athletic fields be removed,

- a greenbelt sign be added on Shore Rd,
- land west of units 8 and 9 be added to the town open space lot,
- elaborate and follow Sec. 19-7-2(d) on common open space restrictions,

And pending changes, recommend that the Resource Protection permit is merited. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

4 Balsam Road Resource Protection Permit. It was noted that the applicant has provided a detailed presentation at an earlier committee meeting. Ms. Boyer asked what the committee is reviewing and Ms. O'Meara shared the draft memo to the Planning Board which summarizes each of the submission requirements.

Mr. Craig noted the National Wetlands Inventory mapping and asked if the area has an RP1 wetland. Ms. O'Meara shared the zoning map overlay using Mapgeo on the town website and also explained that a determination had been made by the prior code enforcement officer that resulted in no RP1 designation in this area.

Chair Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, that the application is complete, and asked if there was further discussion.

Mr. Craig had a concern with downstream impacts and stormwater. The committee discussed the topography sloping down from the site to a drainage way and the thickly vegetated nature of the site, observed by Mr. Sullivan. The manmade pond was noted. There was a question about the impact of roof runoff and impervious surfaces. The rain garden will store some stormwater onsite. Ms. O'Meara confirmed that the project would be reviewed by Town Engineer Steve Harding, who will look at stormwater flows and provide a letter to the Planning Board.

Ms. O'Meara noted that if the application is deemed complete by the Planning Board on July 18th, then a public hearing and possible vote for approval may occur on August 15th. Since the Conservation Committee will cancel its August 8th meeting, do you want to offer advice on the merits of the application at this time as well?

The committee discussed several options and agreed to tentatively schedule another committee meeting on July 25th if the application is deemed complete by the Planning Board¹.

Mr. Craig made a motion to recommend the application is complete, seconded by Mr.

¹The Conservation Committee Chair decided, after the July 18th Planning Board meeting, that the July 25th committee meeting would not be held. The town planner shared Town Engineer Steve Harding's letter reviewing the 4 Balsam Road application to the Planning Board with the Conservation Committee, which included a review of the stormwater issues raised by the committee.

Moore. After another question about impervious surface flows, the motion was passed 6-0. Ms. O'Meara will notify the committee if the Planning Board schedules a site visit.

5. Greenbelt Management.

Machine Built Trails RFP. Ms. Day asked if any machine built trails proposals had been submitted and Ms. O'Meara said none had been received (deadline is July 31st).

MCC. Ms. O'Meara noted the work done by the MCC team, which has addressed most of the trail improvements at Gull Crest. Ms. Day noted that a ramp is needed on the Town Farm field boardwalk.

The committee noted that there is another eagle scout reviewing the priority list for a project.

Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk. The committee noted that debris still needs to be removed from the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk project.

Gazette. The committee would like the MCC project completion and thank you to Public Works, and upcoming events included in the Gazette.

6. Next meeting. The committee has cancelled the August 8th meeting and will meet next on September 12th. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.