

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Present: Mitch Wacksman, Chair, Matt Craig, Corinne Ketcham, Bruce Moore, Jim Tasse.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Minutes. The minutes of June 8, 2021 were approved 5-0.
2. Public Comment. No one asked to be recognized.
3. Greenbelt Management.

Town Farm Boardwalk. Jake Goodwin (eagle scout candidate) has purchased wood and will be assembling the boardwalk and carrying it in to the Town Farm Trail. Ms. O'Meara confirmed that permits are in hand. The design will include a 1' long unsupported section on each end.

Chair Wacksman noted comments from member Day that an unsupported end is difficult for bikes. Mr. Tasse said that 3 skids may result in boardwalk bounce. Mr. Moore asked if there would be a ramp? It was agreed that each end should be supported by a 4 x 4.

Mr. Goodwin said his materials total is \$973.68. Mr. Tasse cautioned that deck screws don't work and the GRK RSS (Lowe's code) screws with the giant head should be used. You need to use 2 at each spot, and make sure to get drivers to match the screw (1 is included in each box, so you may need more). Assuming that there will be additional costs, the Conservation Committee approved a motion to authorize up to \$1,300 for materials to construct boardwalk at the Town Farm by a vote of 5-0.

MCC/Gull Crest Boardwalk. The committee discussed the upcoming MCC/Gull Crest boardwalk construction the week of September 13th. They agreed that the two locations where lumber will be delivered to be walked in are as follows:

- From the end of the gravel road that goes past the dead animal disposal area, down the trail to the snowmobile bridge; and
- From the rear of the Public Works Garage where the school buses are parked, the trail that extends north to the limit where a vehicle may be operated.

The Conservation Committee authorized the use of motorized equipment for transporting materials on Gull Crest for the September 13th trail work project by a vote of 5-0. Chair Wacksman agreed to meet onsite to confirm locations.

Ms. O'Meara described a public participation effort to solicit teams from neighborhoods and community groups to walk in wood, with a \$100 gift card from Hannaford to the winning group to support a block party. The committee approved this approach.

The committee discussed the need to dismantle and remove the existing boardwalk. It approved cutting the boardwalk into pieces and asking volunteers to walk out old boardwalk. Ms. O'Meara will ask Chris Thompson if he can cut up the boardwalk. She will also speak with Public Works Director Jay Reynolds about Public Works using the Gator to deliver wood to the sites above. The goal is to haul in wood between September 5th and September 12th. Ms. O'Meara will contact the school department to solicit athletic team volunteers, etc. to participate in lumber pre-placement also some construction supervised by the MCC team. Other groups to approach include NEMBA, runner group. Ms. O'Meara will order lumber for delivery to Public Works.

Tower Trail relocation. The tower at Gull Crest is constructed and the rerouted trail needs to be located. Chair Wacksman agreed to meet the contractor onsite to field locate the trail the week of July 19th.

Gazette. Items to include in the next gazette include:

- MCC/ Gull Crest Outer Loop Rebuild call for volunteers
- CC willingness to talk to property owners about trail connections

Robinson Woods. Philip Mathieu, CELT Stewardship Manager, introduced the Resource Protection Permit application CELT will be submitting for Robinson Woods to cross a stream and relocate the Pond trail out of the wetland, to create a universal access trail from the Shore Road parking lot to the Olde Colony Lane paper street, and to add boardwalks at Runaway Farms.

The Conservation Committee noted its goal to provide more accessible trails and commended the CELT effort. The trail concept (subject to change) is a 6' wide, stonedust surface, similar to the Pleasant Hill Preserve in Scarborough.

Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk decking replacement. Ms. O'Meara will contact the contractor to seek a start date for this year.

4. Events. The Committee has received two event requests.

Tour de Cape. An application was submitted by Michael Sandora for a Tour de Cape event on August 7th with between 40-100 riders, where parking will be provided at Maine Medical Partners on Spurwink Ave.

The committee questioned if Spurwink Medical Partners had provided permission to use their property, which will also include a barbeque, and if riders will be on the Maxwell Farms agricultural easement. Ms. O'Meara advised that the committee should focus on its authority to manage town trails. The committee's review identified the following:

- That the groups should be limited to 12 each and separated by 10 minutes;
- That the Conservation Committee reserves the right to cancel the event due to weather, such as heavy rain within 48 hours of the event;

- That bathroom facilities must be provided and be used by participants.

The committee questioned the advisability of hosting 100 riders on trails during a time when trails are in heavy use by all users. The committee has successfully partnered with the biking community for some time and an event like this needs to be managed to maintain that relationship. The committee wanted to table consideration of the event until more information was provided by the applicant. Because the next committee meeting is August 10th and the event is proposed for August 7th, the Conservation Committee voted 4-0-1 (Tasse abstained) to deny permission for the event. Ms. O'Meara will contact the applicant to notify him of the denial and that the committee is willing to consider an event at another time and with more information.

Mountain bike skills clinic. Jim Tasse, representing the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) would like to hold a skills clinic limited to 6 attendees on August 3rd and 5th from 5:30 pm - 7:00pm at Gull Crest. The event has been publicly advertised. The event was approved by a vote of 4-0-1 (Tasse abstained). Staff will include this in the Gazette.

5. Invasives. The committee noted the presentation from Mr. Daucause at the last meeting regarding an invasive plant program on town open space.

Chair Wacksman asked Mr. Mathieu what CELT is doing? Mr. Mathieu reported that CELT has an invasives plan with property goals and management actions. Andrea Southworth is a major volunteer in the effort. Invasive management should be done on a landscape scale and CELT would like to partner. He noted that CELT is testing treatment options and that carpet installed over knotweed did not work. CELT has contracted this year with a vegetation control services company in Massachusetts for \$50,000 of technical support.

Mr. Moore has worked with Ms. Southworth and invasives removal is tough work, requiring lots of people. With the committee's responsibilities for trail maintenance, this may be too much.

Chair Wacksman suggested that Mr. Daucause could come to the next meeting to propose a pilot project. Mr. Craig does not want the committee to put its head in the sand on this issue.

With the amount of boardwalk replacement work the committee has in the pipeline, the committee agreed to table till December further discussion of an overall invasives program by a vote of 5-0.

6. Planning Board review. The Conservation Committee reviewed the Town Trails Resource Protection Permit application for trails at Gull Crest, Cross Hill, Winnick Woods and Stonegate. The committee reviewed each of the submission information waivers. The committee voted to recommend that the application is complete by a vote of 5-0. The committee also voted to recommend to the Planning Board that the Resource Protection Permit be issued by a vote of 5-0.

7. Next meeting. Ms. O'Meara asked the committee to consider receiving some meeting materials, such as the minutes, in digital form only. She reviewed the recent decision by the Ordinance Committee to receive the agenda and text amendments only in paper. The committee agreed that all future meeting materials will only be provided digitally.

The next meeting will be August 10th. The September meeting has been moved to September 8th to provide for preplanning just before the September 13th MCC crew arrives. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.