

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Michelle Boyer, Matt Craig, Emily Helliesen Day, 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. Ms. Day made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dietsch, to approved the July 13, 2023 minutes, which passed by a vote of 6-0.
4. Greenbelt Management.

CELT Invasives project request. Ardath Dixon, CELT Stewardship Manager, summarized a request to remove invasives, with a focus on glossy buckthorn, in Gull Crest adjacent to the CELT Runaway Farm Preserve.

Ms. Boyer asked for information listing invasive plants of concern. Ms. O'Meara offered that the Ordinance Committee has done some work with invasives lists as part its work on the Pesticide Ordinance. She recommended the Natural Areas program list, and the committee asked that the link to this list be shared.

Mr. Sullivan asked if the roots or just the plant above ground will be removed. Ms. Dixon said volunteer capacity only allows removal of the plant now.

Chair Ketcham made a motion to approve the CELT request, seconded by Ms. Boyer and the motion was approved 6-0.

Ms. Dixon also asked the committee to provide direction in making trail connections between Cross Hill and a new CELT acquisition to the east. She will update the committee as acquisition continues, but the committee was generally supportive.

Spurwink Boardwalk debris. The committee asked for an update on removing debris from the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk decking. Ms. O'Meara did provide an update on removal of excess riprap at the Willow Brook culvert.

Priority projects. The committee briefly noted projects completed, including the boy scout Joe Gray's boardwalk improvement.

Machine Built Trails. The committee began review of the Sanctuary Trail Works LLC proposal submitted by Chris Cyr. Ms. Boyer asked if we check references? Ms. O'Meara will ask for references.

Ms. Day noted that Sanctuary has built trails on private property in Gorham. He is less expensive and the trail work appears less geared to mountain bikes.

Mr. Cyr will be invited to attend the October 10th meeting and the committee may also want to do a site walk with the proposer.

MCC application. The committee would like to pursue more trail improvements with the Maine Conservation Corps. Staff will submit an application and the committee would like the application to cover outstanding work needed in Winnick Woods.

Gazette. The committee would like to include the event to remove invasives in Gull Crest. A link to more information about invasive plants should be added.

Map update. The data is updated a new map will be ready for the committee to review at the next meeting, followed by deployment of new signage at Winnick Woods/Cross Hill.

5. Planning Board. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee on items before the Planning Board, and no action from the Conservation Committee is needed.

Ordinance amendments. Ms. O'Meara updated the committee that the Ordinance Committee will be looking at parking adjacent to the greenbelt in response to complaints.

Ms. Boyer asked about the status of the Conservation Events Ordinance amendments and Ms. O'Meara said it remained pending before the Ordinance Committee.

The committee asked staff to invite Vigorous Tenderness back for another Winter Solstice concert at Gull Crest.

6. Next meeting. The next committee meeting will be held October 10th. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.