

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Present: Matt Craig, Chair, Michelle Boyer, Emily Helliesen Day, Stacy Dietsch, Corinne Ketcham, Bruce Moore.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

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

2. Public Comment.

Rachel Perry, 7 Pine Ridge Rd – There is a trail by her house that extends to Two Lights Road. The town owns the land at the end of Hunts Point Rd and it is very short-sighted of the town not to create a trail there to create a shorter loop for trail users. There is land for sale right now.

Chair Craig said that Mrs. Perry's ideas are welcome. It does not appear the town owns the land. Ms. O'Meara said there are private rights.

3. Minutes.

Ms. Day made a motion to approved the October 8, 2024 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Ketcham and the motion passed 5-0.

4. Open Space event.

The Conservation Committee considered an event request by the Cape Courier to hold a tree lighting ceremony on the village green. Mrs. Ketcham made a motion to approve the event request, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the motion passed 5-0.

5. U20-40 South Street lot

Chair Craig said the draft memo summarized the committee review and discussion and noted the site visit. Mrs. Ketcham and Ms. Day volunteered to attend the Town Council meeting. Mr. Moore made a motion to recommend that the lot be retained, which was seconded by Mrs. Ketcham and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. Greenbelt management

Budget review. The committee reviewed the balance and projected expenditures for FY 2025, which include carryover funds and remaining funds from the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk project. The committee then discussed purchase of a mechanized cart that

would be able to transport boardwalk lumber over rustic trails. After reviewing several options, the committee supported purchase of a tracked wheelbarrow sold by Home Depot, and recommended that the warranty also be purchased. Mrs. Ketcham made a motion to purchase the cart for an amount not to exceed \$4,000, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the motion passed 5-0.

Gull Crest boardwalk repair. Ms. Day reported that the project has been completed by volunteer Mitch Wacksman. The committee expressed deep gratitude for this project.

Cross Hill machine built trail project. Ms. Day reported the work is progressing and is a significant improvement.

Fields Management. This is tabled to the next meeting.

Other trail work. Winnick Woods invasives. Mr. Moore reported that the Meadow Trail in Winnick Woods has significant bittersweet which is pulling down trees. He has talked to Tree Warden Jeff Tarling about what to do. He would like the committee to consider a test project in Winnick Woods where we install a sign asked volunteers to get involved. We could also consider an adopt a trail policy.

Mrs. Ketcham noted we have an invasives policy. She noted efforts to get a group together not just one time, but ongoing. Perhaps we can do areas of Winnick Woods.

Mr. Moore suggested getting Mr. Tarling on the trail to identify areas and guide what to do with bittersweet and multiflora rose.

Chair Craig asked if this is a possible scout project. Mrs. Ketcham said it is a large scope for a scout project. The eagle scout candidate project is supposed to be achieved over one weekend, and no one under 18 is allowed to use power equipment.

The committee discussed making this a budget line item, which should also include disposal. There was consensus to reach out to Mr. Tarling and put together a plan.

The committee discussed partnering with groups such as the Rotary (they are working in Fort Williams), CELT (the chickadees project), and NEMBA (as an in-kind donation for the scheduled rides). The committee agreed that Mr. Moore would contact Tree Warden Tarling for advice on next steps.

Climate Action Plan. Chair Craig notified members of the Climate Action Plan public meeting to be held Thursday.

Gazette. The committee suggested including items on x-country skiing ethics, fire warning, Cross Hill work progressing and a Thank you to departing CC members.

Broad Cove trails. Committee members would like to revisit trail connections in Broad Cove.

7. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held December 10th. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.