

Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan

Abutters and Public Meeting

For Public Benefit Conveyance property: trail connections to community and Brunswick Landing

Abutter and Public Input Summary

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

5:30 – 7 PM, Harriet Beecher Stowe Gymnasium

The following is a summary of the input, recommendations and questions received from attendees by their geographic area in relation to public benefit conveyances. All information will serve as a basis for further discussion and input into the draft recreation, trails and open space management plan:

Northwest - Pollard Ave

- Fence should remain along property boundary of residential abutters for public safety and as a buffer
- Only bicycle and pedestrian access should be allowed if there is access from a dead end street
- If walking path on perimeter road is opened, place pedestrian access gate at end of Davis St, Pollard Ave and Wilson St.
- Concern perimeter road is too close to property boundary
- Recommend property setbacks
- Recommend access gate in neighborhood, however, not at every street
- Where population is dense, protect wildlife by keeping fences up selectively

Northwest – Hawthorne St

- Perimeter road is very close to fence and property line
- Fence should remain if perimeter road is to be used as a trail, or open to vehicular traffic
- Recommendation to open gate by St. Johns Cemetery for walking and bicycle use
- Recommendation that parking lot for trail access not be located close to property at end of Hawthorne
- Open access gate at corner of Pine, Chamberlain and cemetery, connect perimeter road in both directions
- Allow for pedestrian access openings in fence to allow for entry from private property

Southwest – Capewood Dr

- Concern about maintaining privacy and security of residential property
- Maintain a sufficient buffer between public use of trails, public property and residential property
- Property owner at 36 Capewoods, request to use culvert as access to property, put in gates and access at owner expense

Southwest – Osprey Ln

- Concern about hunting close to residences, recommend a 500' setback for hunting
- Create bicycle paths on perimeter road that allows access from Middle Bay Rd, safe access to downtown Brunswick.

East – Wildwood Drive

- Keep fences up

Additional feedback:

- Some residents requested gate access on every street, others preferred gate access on one street only.
- Problem with bittersweet growing on fence (MRRRA / Base property side)
- Open Purinton Rd to vehicular access

Trails

- Recommendation to have access point from northwest corner
- Concern about property values being affected by trails, positively or negatively.
- Potential parking area near Back Cove Rd is a concern due to proximity to home
- No hunting at Prince's Point
- Leave fence north of Town Commons

Questions – asked during the meeting:

Answers were given at the meeting, and will be the basis for follow up discussions and incorporation into the management plan.

- Will chain link fence be removed? Will the barbed wire fences along Harpswell Rd. be taken down from Favreau property to golf course?
The chain link fence will remain in some areas, be removed in others depending upon abutter concerns, wildlife management corridors, access to the property, and other reasons. MRRRA and Bowdoin College also own or will own properties, and their needs will also determine whether or not fences will remain. This will be an ongoing discussion.
- Will trail go around all the abutting properties?
The intention is to have a perimeter trail connecting the parcels that will be owned by the Town, to create a connecting trail system. A conceptual trail layout has been mapped, with final layout to be determined.
- Will there be a buffer zone of a set amount of feet between trails and properties?
Where feasible, every effort will be made for a buffer zone or setback between the trails and residential properties. The Town has engaged the services of a professional trail consultant who will address the implications related to the possible relocation of the perimeter trail which currently exists upon the REC-7 parcel.
- Will there be any cost to the abutting properties?
There will be no cost to the abutting property owners.
- Will minutes from this public meeting be posted?
A meeting summary from this public meeting, as well as all of the stakeholder committee meetings will be distributed to abutters requesting the information via email; and will be posted to the Town of Brunswick website as well.
- Will the picnic area by Purinton Rd be restored?
The picnic area by Purinton Rd. is not currently intended for conveyance to the Town of Brunswick.
- When can we walk on trails?
Once the Town owns the property, the public will be able to access the property and use trails as they are cleared to acceptable standards. The full trail system will be cleared over time as resources become available and opened to the public in a phased approach.