

APPROVED
Town of Concord
Estabrook Access Study Committee
Meeting
June 9 2016
141 Keyes Road

Members Present: Sally Schnitzer Bonnie Pohlig
 Polly Reeve Justin King
 Neil Rasmussen Jeff Adams
 Peter Siebert Lisa Pohl
 Kathryn Angell

Also Present: Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board liaison
 Nick D'Arbeloff (Carlisle liaison, non-voting)

Public Present: David Santomenna Trustees of Reservations

Polly Reeve called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

1. Review and approval of minutes for May 26 meeting

The minutes from the Committee's meeting of May 26, 2016 were discussed. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence

Two emails have been received since the last meeting. These were briefly discussed. It was noted that the temporary no parking signs on Estabrook Road (extended by the Selectmen for 90 more days) now look permanent. Jane Hotchkiss offered to bring this matter up to the Select Board to request the Police Department to clearly mark the signs as temporary. It was also suggested that this fact be included in the presentation at the hearing. Finally, it was suggested that after the hearing we post a sign at Estabrook Road, Chamberlin Woods, Punkatasset and at one location in Carlisle noting that parking is under study by this committee and letting people know on that sign how to reach our committee via email.

3. Administrative Matters

- a. The Chairs met with the Police Chief. The Department wants to be part of the solution and looks forward to our deliberations and report. The temporary signs will remain for 90 days until we make our recommendations. Officers are visiting the Estabrook Road neighborhood regularly, and report that conflicts have lessened. The Committee noted that lessening the conflicts doesn't mean that we have answered the question of how many parking spaces there should be. Is there any data on parking, either before or after the temporary signs went up? How is parking affected

at the other locations? It was suggested that a timeline of events leading to the decision to temporarily limit parking might be useful if the Police Department can make it available. Justin King wondered if the boulders along the road are on town land.

- b. Polly Reeve has heard from the Director of the Harvard Field Station, Andy Biewener, who is aware of our work and supportive of our efforts. He will not be able to attend the hearing on June 13, but would be happy to attend one of our meetings or provide information to the Committee.
- c. Notice of the hearing was mailed to near abutters of the three main access points in Concord. (Chamberlin Woods, Punkatasset, Estabrook Road)

4. Preparing for the hearing

- a. Polly stated that it is our intent to set the tone for a productive and positive hearing. We should be active listeners, and encourage the suggestion of solutions. We will have one handout in the back that will provide our committee's contact information and also a place where people can write their comments and turn them in. The meeting will be held in the upstairs hearing room at the Town House, to start at 7pm.
- b. The Committee reviewed the Draft Hearing Presentation provided by the Chairs. Comments around the table were generally positive about the tone and content. A few members have small edits to suggest, and will provide those comments to the Chairs. Nick D'Arbeloff noted that the presentation provided a good factual overview of the history and makeup of the Woods. Some items to add to the report include:
 - Note the three primary access points in Concord
 - Note that there is a TEMPORARY parking ban on part of Estabrook Road
 - Emphasize how people can get in touch with us
- c. Peter Siebert provided a PRELIMINARY DRAFT analysis of the open and/or vacant land in the Estabrook Woods. This information will be used in a general way in the presentation at the hearing. The analysis is based on the publicly available GIS information, and therefore acreage amounts are approximate. The Committee suggested some re-categorization of parcel types. Peter will try to redo the map and provide it for the hearing. Peter was thanked for this excellent work. It was noted that providing a complete, accurate listing of all restricted land in the woods would require a review of the CRs themselves and is probably beyond the scope of our Committee. Kathy noted that the terms of each CR (including terms of any public access) would be understood by reading each restriction, recorded at the registry of deeds.
- d. Polly and Sally are working with town staff on the room setup. Jeff offered to bring a tape recorder and help with taping the hearing. Justin is willing to time the speakers. Jane will contact the IT department for assistance in the powerpoint presentation.

5. Next Steps

The Committee began to consider next steps after the hearing. It was noted that if we need to ask Town staff for reports or to come to one of our meetings, we should make those requests soon. After the hearing, it would be useful for the Committee to debrief, and to list possible solutions. Polly suggested that members keep an eye out for “best practices” when we travel this summer – signs with good content or design, etc. We might want to look at how many parking spaces are provided at other town conservation properties. We might contact groups like The Trustees of Reservations, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and others who may have faced similar problems with parking, access, dogs, conflicts, etc.

6. Citizen’s comments

David Santomena of The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) was pleased to come to our meeting this morning, and is happy to provide us with some approaches TTOR has taken to deal with these types of issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Documents consulted or reviewed at meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of May 26 Meeting

Correspondence received May 26- June 7 2016

Draft map of Protected Lands in Estabrook Woods – prepared by Peter Siebert dated 6/7/16

Draft Summary Chart of Protected Lands in Estabrook Woods prepared by Peter Siebert 6/7/16

Draft Introduction for the June 13 hearing prepared by Sally Schnitzer dated June 5, 2016

Also distributed:

Town of Concord 1987 Long Range Plan Appendices on Estabrook Woods

Concord Conservation Land Regulations Voted August 18, 2014 Concord Board of Selectmen

Excerpt from Concord Land Conservation Trust Trail Guide page 2: rules of courtesy 2014