

Approved
Town of Concord
Estabrook Access Study Committee
Meeting
May 26, 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: Carmin Reiss Lyn Lemare
 Ed Wilson Howard Berman
 Luis D. Berrizbeitia

Sally Schnitzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

1. Review and approval of minutes for May 12 meeting

The minutes from the Committee's meeting of May 12, 2016 were discussed. One amendment was offered, and it was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence

In response to a question, Select Board member Hotchkiss reported on her understanding of why the committee may not have received copies of all correspondence previously sent to the Select Board. When Ruth Lauer returns from vacation, she will try to gather any items of correspondence related to Estabrook Woods received by the Select Board and not previously distributed to this committee.

3. Administrative matters

- a. Upcoming meetings: Many thanks for promptly responding to the Doodle poll, which indicates that most members can attend most meetings. We will plan to hold meetings on all the specified dates unless it becomes apparent that we will not have a quorum.
- b. The public hearing will be held on Monday, June 13 at 7 PM at the Town House in the second floor hearing room. Drafts of a press release and a poster publicizing the meeting were discussed, and two revisions were suggested and incorporated into the documents. It was agreed that we would post the sign at entrances to the woods at Punkatasset, Estabrook Road, Chamberlin Woods, and in Carlisle.
- c. Marcia Rasmussen, Town Planner, has offered to assist with any fact-checking that our committee may need. Also, Sally and Polly have scheduled a meeting with the Police Chief on June 3.

4. Review of materials

Peter Siebert reviewed the draft map and list he has prepared which indicate various possible points of access to the woods with a variety of attributes related to parking, public rights to trails, ownership of land, etc. and provided a summary of his observations about each one identified. After a lengthy discussion, we concluded that there are three points in Concord with a combination of essential features: a trail meeting a public way, the possibility of off-pavement parking, and legal public access to trails through right or permission: Punkatasset, Estabrook Road, and Chamberlin Woods. There are other theoretical access points that are not formalized or practical at this time for a variety of reasons, although some could possibly be in the future. Members of the committee and the public expressed concern over publicizing access points with ambiguous legitimacy. Peter will revise the map and notes and will send to Sally.

Because there was not time to discuss the document entitled “Understanding Public Access in Estabrook Woods” submitted by Neil Rasmussen, members of the committee were asked to review it and submit comments to Sally. It was acknowledged that this document has not yet been fact-checked. This document and committee responses will be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

5. Citizen’s comments

Luis Berrizbeitia commented that this is a “people problem” rather than a “parking problem,” and that people who enjoy the woods need to know when they are on private property and that they must behave responsibly.

Ed Wilson, who works for the Trustees of Reservations, noted that the Apthorp house near Punkatasset is currently rented and the Trustees are in the process of reviewing its use. They are interested in our committee’s deliberations and will take them into account as they make future plans for the property.

Lyn Lemare, Carlisle Selectman, commented that it is important to be careful when publicizing access through private land. Some owners have generously given permission for people to walk on their land but would be uncomfortable with the active promotion of the use of trails on their land.

Howard Berman remarked that publicity related to Estabrook Woods access will only serve to draw even more people to the woods. He commented that internet dog-walking sites magnify issues related to overuse. He emphasized that people, not parking, are the problem.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 AM.