

Town of Concord
Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Approved Minutes

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

Also present: Nick D'Arbeloff, Carlisle liaison, non-voting
Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director
Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board Liaison
Mike Lawson, Select Board Chair

Public Present: Brooks Read
Roberto Rodriguez
Dinah Buechner-Vischer
Kathy Ellison
Peter Shaw
Peter Gifford
Patricia Geyer

1. Minutes for September 13, 2016 meeting were discussed. Minor amendments were suggested and the minutes were approved as amended.
2. Several pieces of correspondence were received since the last meeting and had been previously distributed to committee members.
3. Administrative matters: at the end of the meeting, the committee discussed whether there was a need to hold a meeting on October 20.
4. Discussion of Recommendations
 - a. Sally Schnitzer had previously distributed to the committee a set of draft Preliminary Recommendations, based on previous votes and consensus. The intent is to review and amend them at this meeting with the goal of

achieving a document the Committee is comfortable to post on the website in advance of the public hearing and be available as a handout at the hearing.

- b. Sally reviewed the purpose of the hearing—primarily for the committee to provide an overview of our process and Preliminary Recommendations, and then to listen to responses from the public. The hearing is not the end of the process, as we will be meeting in November to consider public comment received at the hearing and in further correspondence. We will then submit our Final Recommendations to the Select Board, who will determine what next steps to take.
- c. We reviewed the draft Preliminary Recommendations, and decided to incorporate the following changes:
 1. Add a section at the beginning highlighting and summarizing our two highest priority recommendations
 2. Make headlines succinct and consistent
 3. Modify the description of the Estabrook “group” we are proposing and drop the name suggestions to make it more general.
- d. At the end of the last meeting there were a few ideas that had not been resolved.
 1. Sally distributed two versions of the parking chart, reflecting her proposal for eliminating new parking at Monument Farm at this time. After some discussion, it was decided to change the recommendation to emphasize that the NRC should involve neighbors and conduct research to determine the feasibility of adding 3-5 spots at the Town conservation land.
 2. Kathy Angell proposed adding a recommendation for temporary additional parking for 3-8 cars, and limited to Concord residents, at Estabrook Road to be removed once the potential parking area at the Apthorp Land was built. After some discussion, a vote was taken and four voting members approved this, although without the restriction to Concord residents. Three voting members plus our Carlisle representative voted against this. Thus, it will be

added to the recommendations with the indication that it was not a consensus vote.

3. We then discussed boulders on Estabrook Road and whether we should recommend their removal. Brooks Read, the landowner at this location, told the committee why the boulders were placed there. There have been several incidents of vehicles driving well off of the road and around the tree in order to turn around. The committee was grateful for this information, and decided to include a reference to “removing or relocating” boulders to improve the design and safety of the parking on Estabrook Road.

5. Public Comments:

- a. Dinah Buechner-Vischer spoke about the importance of preserving safety on Estabrook Road. There have been many times, especially in the winter, when the road has been literally clogged with cars, and emergency vehicles would be unable to get in. She is very concerned that returning additional parking spaces will allow unsafe situations to arise, and as a dead end road it is important to ensure that the road is always passable. It is not a parking lot. She expressed dismay that the committee was not discussing safety, because this should be a paramount concern.
- b. Brooks Read referred to the 1932 document that he believes demonstrates that the trail is private. He said that they have welcomed people and that their intention is not to keep people out, but inconveniences and intrusions must be kept to a tolerable level. There has been enormous growth due to the internet, and people from around the region have discovered the Estabrook Road access point. The current conditions are working well. There will always be excess demand, no matter how many parking spaces there are, and balance and safety are the key.
- c. Patricia Geyer reiterated the importance of safety. The no parking signs are working. If there is a wait for a parking space, it is never long, and both residents and visitors are finding that it's working. She encouraged the committee to recommend keeping these current conditions.
- d. Peter Shaw is building a house on Estabrook Road and described the rural and historic character that drew his family to this neighborhood. There is

rarely a problem now with insufficient parking, and he encouraged the committee to recommend keeping the current number of parking spaces.

- e. Peter Gifford asked how the committee arrived at the number of parking spaces in the recommended parking area at Punkatasset. Sally responded that it was based on TTOR's and the Natural Resources Division's estimate of capacity; it was a rough estimate. Peter expressed his feeling that building a lot of that size would ruin the landscape at Punkatasset, and encouraged the committee to think about something smaller, maybe 10 spaces. He also expressed serious concern over the practicalities of creating a lot deeper in the Punkatasset land.
 - f. Sally thanked attendees for making time to come to the meeting, and also encouraged the public to come to the public hearing. It was agreed that the Co-chairs would amend and polish the document for posting and as a handout, and would prepare the powerpoint slides and the text of the presentation.
6. There will be no meeting on October 20.
 7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Documents Reviewed at Meeting:

- Two parking charts prepared by Sally Schnitzer
- Draft preliminary recommendations