

Town of Concord
Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Approved Minutes

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

Also present: Nick D'Arbeloff, Carlisle liaison, non-voting
Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director

Public Present: David Santomenna, Trustees of Reservations

1. Minutes for September 15, 2016 meeting were approved as written
2. No correspondence had been received since the last meeting
3. Administrative matters: upcoming meetings
 - a. We will meet on October 6 and October 20 at 7 AM. The hearing will be held on October 24 at 7 PM in the Town House. We will meet twice after the hearing, on November 3 and November 17, both at 7AM.
 - b. We believe that the Select Board granted an extension for our committee until December 1, and we will plan to submit our final report by that date.
 - c. Sally had distributed a chart with police visits to Estabrook Rd. These were briefly discussed and it appears that complaints to the police were primarily from a single address.
4. Moving toward Recommendations
 - a. **Estabrook Road**
 1. Since the legal rights of the public to access the woods via the old Estabrook Road after the paving ends is not settled, Sally

proposed polling each member of the committee on their recommended number of parking spaces under each of the two scenarios: first, if the neighbors control the access to or, second, if the Town retained the access after they abandoned maintenance. The results of this poll were as follows:

Scenario #1:

- Four plus our Carlisle designee voted to leave number of parking places at 11, perhaps with signs that say: “trail parking between signs only”
- Five voted to urge neighbors to allow *additional* “trail parking between signs only” parallel roadside spots: plus 3-4 spots (one member), plus 5 (one member), plus 5-8 spots (one member), plus 11 spots (two members)

Scenario #2:

- Three plus our Carlisle designee voted to leave number of spaces at 11
- Six voted to allow additional “trail parking between signs” so as to add parallel roadside spaces: plus 5-6 spots (two members), plus 5-8 spots (one member), plus 6-8 spots (one member), plus 11 spots (two members)

2. After some discussion, the group was also asked to respond to a third scenario – if we were able to add a 20-24 car lot at Punkatasset.

Scenario #3:

- Seven members plus our Carlisle member felt that the existing eleven spots at Estabrook Road would be adequate under this scenario
- Two members felt that more spaces would still be needed.

3. During the course of this discussion, it was suggested that there be some spaces on the EAST side of the road for ease of parking on the left as you enter, then a turnaround, then possibly a few

more spaces on the WEST side of the road facing back toward Barnes Hill Road, but in no case opposite each other. Several members of the committee concurred that this was a good idea worth exploring. It was also agreed that all spaces need to be practical rather than theoretical – i.e. safe, able to accommodate a regular sized car, and user-friendly so that people will tend to park in a way that allows others to fit in adjacent spots.

It was also emphasized that the town needs to take responsibility for plowing and maintenance, and that signage and enforcement must be consistent. Adding off-road parking at Punkatasset is an important way to resolve issues at Estabrook Road, and it is appropriate to encourage visitors where the access is to land owned by the town.

b. Monument Farm

1. Delia Kaye told us that there was room for 10-12 parallel parked cars near the trail on the south side of the road, and that they would be on town land. In addition, there might be 3-4 spots created near the trail easement. Members were asked to share their opinions about recommendations for this area, and there seemed to be consensus on the following:
 - Relocate the long trail so it is fully on town conservation land
 - Add a sign to identify the conservation land, as well as trail markers as needed and rules sign in the woods, as at other entry points.
 - Add parking signs: “Trail parking allowed between signs”
 - Room for 10 spots at the conservation land (one member wished the number to be 5)
 - Room for 3 spots at the trail easement (two members wished the number to be 0)
 - No gravel or curb cuts necessary at this time. NRC might wish to review the situation in a few years.

5. Discussion of hearing arrangements: We will publicize the hearing in the Concord Journal (letter to the editor and notices) and we will notify abutters. Kathy will compile addresses of all those who have attended our meetings and hearing, and/or communicated with the committee, and they will be notified by mail. Some committee members offered to post flyers in public places, and we will bring these to the next meeting for distribution. We will prepare a PowerPoint presentation, as well as a handout of our recommendations.
6. There were no comments from the public.
7. Neil had distributed a paper expressing his thoughts on parking and access.
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Documents Reviewed at Meeting:

- Photographs of signs pertaining to dogs shared by Kathy Angell
- Summary of police data from Sally
- Draft report and recommendations