

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING
June 19, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selectman Bonnie Searle at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Ellen Goethel, Ms. Nancy Olney, Mr. Peter Tilton Jr., Mr. Mike McDermott, Mr. Jim Keefe and Mr. David Joaquin.

The Minutes of May 1, 2002 were reviewed. Mr. Tilton motioned to accept the Minutes as amended, seconded by Mrs. Goethel. All were in favor. The copies of the tapes of the Island Path Committee Meetings have been forwarded to Island Path resident Virginia Nardone as she requested.

A. New Engineering Plans

Mrs. Goethel distributed the new Engineering Plans to the Committee which were prepared by Rockingham County Conservatiion District by MJS Engineering, PC. These plans are of the Island Path salt marsh trail which consists of existing conditions, Phases 1 & 2, site details and boardwalk details. Mr. Joaquin asked when it would be submitted to the State and Mrs. Goethel answered the end of June. Mr. McDermott asked about applying for the DES permit. Mrs. Goethel responded. A short discussion ensued.

B. Trail Signage

Mrs. Goethel reviewed the signs that will be put along the trail. They include the following:

1. Welcome to The Island Path Nature Area – (lists rules and when open)
2. Upland Habitat and Wildlife (lists what wildlife could be seen)
3. Geological History (states the geological history of the area)
4. Island Path History (states the history of Island Path)
5. Salt Marsh Haying (states the history of how haying began)
6. Zonation (gives definition of high marsh, low marsh, and salt hay etc.)
7. The Ocean's Nursery (states what is beneath the ocean floor and how that life depends on the salt marsh at some point in their life)

C. Recommendations/Final Report

Ms. Searle stated the need to do the Final Report and Recommendations to the Selectmen which are needed by the first of August. The Island Path Representatives would like to present their own Final Report. (Minority Report) Ms. Searle reminded the Committee that the land is under the Conservation Commission. Both the Island Path Representatives and the Conservation Commission Representatives did agree on several items:

1. The Mission Statement
2. The signage for the pathway
3. Agreed on gravel

The parking issue was not agreed on.

Two suggestions were to look into the bicycle rack and trash container to put out of sight with a small hole on the top.

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The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office. There will also be a meeting on Monday, August, 5, 2002 to wrap up the Committee Meetings.

As there were no public comments, Mrs. Goethel motioned to adjourn at 8:30, seconded by Mr. McDermott. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Launi
Conservation Commission Secretary

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Mr. Tilton's comment

Since our last meeting I would like to state on record the chain of events that have taken place with regards to the Island Path/Dump nature walk.

May 3rd - Mr. Tilton visited the Island. His recommendation left on Dave's voice mail was to fence in the area.

Mr. Tilton responded to his comment.

May 9th - I tried to reach Mr. Barrington but he was unavailable. However, I did connect with the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. She was unaware of any Risk management policy in place for public spaces. She agreed to look at the photos of the nature dump and commented that it looked like a terrible liability. WILLFULL ENDANGERMENT!!

Mr. Barrington returned my call at 5:30pm or 6:00pm and we met the following day.

May 10th - Presented a copy of the 1995 D.E.S. report and photos to Mr. Barrington. After reviewing the photos he informed me he visited the site on May 9th and he understood our concern about the willful endangerment. At this time I presented a proposal to Mr. Barrington as to what the Island Path residents would like to see happen.

I also met with Senator Smith's aide, Jeff Rose to express some of the concerns that were gaveled down at previous meetings regarding National Security Issues. After Mr. Rose reviewed the same photos shown to Mr. Barrington and heard what was presented by the Conservation Commission, he wondered where was the common sense to this project. Jeff put me in touch with Seabrook Station to follow through with the National Security Issue. Jeff indicated he would stay in touch.

May 14th - Mr. Workmen and Mr. Warbaughton responded to an invitation to view the property. The same photos were shown and agreed that there are more serious issues with this project. Public Safety concerns was the major concerns - WILLFUL ENDANGERMENT.

They have no interest in having their families visit a site like this in any community as presently proposed and are opposed to fencing in the area. This would prevent the wildlife from utilizing this upland refuge.

May 16th - I received a call from John Giarrusso Jr. of Community Relations at Seabrook Station. We agreed to meet on May 18th.

May 18th - showed the photos and walked the property with John @ Seabrook Station. He also wanted to know "where was the common sense" in this project.

May 21st - I received another call from John @ Seabrook Station. He indicated Seabrook Station was not willing to fund this project as proposed. He also informed me that Seabrook Station was unwilling to assure the public in writing that the proposed parking area is not and never will be a National Security Risk.

What the residents want to propose is to utilize the parking area on East Island Path, the town owned lot.

Phase I - Immediately upgrade the habitat for the wildlife. (ex. mow grass, prune trees)

Apply for permits to remove the hazardous materials and test soil for planting.

Apply for Superfund grant to clean up

Reach-out for donations, this will probably be a 5-10 year plan.

Phase II - Commence clean up after permits are in place and start planting

Start sidewalk construction from East Island path parking to proposed project.

Phase III - Make up signs.

Start figure 9 trail

Install speed bumps

Phase IV - Set signs

Finish planting

Install bike racks

Mr. Tilton responded that there was no objection to the public. As far as to the Seabrook Station and National Security - it is not an issue.

Beach area still a problem

Old Island Path dump center of new dispute

BY STEVE JUSSEAUME
sjusseaume@seacoastonline.com

HAMPTON — A proposed educational marsh walk project off Island Path continues to generate opposition from the neighborhood.

At the latest meeting of the study committee formed to come to some compromise on the project, Island Path resident Michael McDermott cautioned the committee that people, especially young kids, could leave the paths at the proposed marsh walk and get injured by the broken glass that is littered on the site. He called it "willful endangerment."

"People never stay on trails ... someone leaving the trails could be injured," McDermott said at the study group's May 22 meeting, suggesting that the town could open itself up to "a terrible liability."

McDermott also suggested that the Conservation Commission take a four-phase approach in dealing with the site:

- upgrade it in terms of mowing grass and pruning trees, and ap-

See BEACH, Page A11

Old Island Path dump worri

BEACH, from Page One

ply for a Superfund grant to clean to area up as well as solicit donations to pay for the work. That could take five to 10 years, he said.

- commence the cleanup after state permits are in place and start sidewalk construction along Island Path from the site to the town parking lot so visitors would have a safe place to walk.

- make the proposed signs, start the layout of a figure eight trail, and install speed bumps on the road way.

- set the signs, finish the planting and install bike racks.

"If you can all just take a breath. This is a common-sense approach. Public safety is an issue," McDermott said, claiming that the approach the Conservation Commission is taking "is a terrible approach ... This is going to cost more than you can imagine."

Registering the site as a former landfill is a key part of McDermott's plan. According to Doug Kemp, a waste management specialist with the state Department of Environmental Services, registering the area would place the site under the authority of the DES and only limited excavation and restricted building would be allowed.

Under a rules change passed in

1997, municipalities must register all "pre-1981 landfills" with the state. By registering the site as a pre-1981 landfill, the site would not have to be cleaned up according to current landfill closure regulations, Kemp said.

Bonnie Searle, the chairman of the committee, said she had a conversation with Kemp and told him that the site was a landfill before 1955, was excavated in 1979 for a parking area, and that about 10,000 feet of clean fill was brought in. Searle said that Kemp said to her, "The state does not want to hinder the process" regarding the project.

She added that the neighbors claiming Superfund money might be needed could end up costing the town some serious money if the site was judged a dump.

"These neighbors have caused such a ruckus. This could be a very expensive thing because of what they've done," Searle said.

But Kemp said last week that while the site may be a former dump, "a little bit of surface debris doesn't make it a landfill."

He added that in registering the site, the town "needs to demonstrate that the area is not a landfill, that it hasn't been used as a landfill since 1981." He suggested the town could use Board of Selectmen min-

utes, entries in an annual Town Report, public works reports that debris was removed at one time, or a certified letter from an attorney to prove its case.

Kemp noted that he visited the site recently and doesn't feel the area warrants a major cleanup.

"I don't think this is a big deal," Kemp said.

When asked at the May 22 meeting if the town is going to register the site, Searle said she didn't know.

"The town hasn't made a determination to register the site ... No one has asked the town to register it," Searle said.

McDermott also registered his concern about national security

and the Seabrook nuclear plant, which is about two away from the proposed park and is in plain view across marsh.

He said he had talked with community relations spokesman Giarrusso of Seabrook Station. Giarrusso told him that Seabrook Station "was unwilling to assure the public in writing that the proposed parking area is not and never will be a national security risk."

Giarrusso, however, said in a separate interview that he sees no security issues on Island Path.

"There would be no threat to Seabrook Station from that direction. There is absolutely no th

ing redistricting, and study committees for unions, formed by this and previous sessions will continue to meet throughout the summer. However, the Corner is not sure how many New Hampshire residents are aware of a separate set of contributions.

Island Path dump worries some

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Bonnie Searle, the chairman of the committee, said she had a conversation with Kemp and told him that the site was a landfill before 1955, was excavated in 1979 for a parking area, and that about 10,000 cubic feet of clean fill was brought in. Searle said that Kemp said to her, "the state does not want to hinder the process" regarding the project. She added that the neighbors' claiming Superfund money might be needed could end up costing the town some serious money if the site is judged a dump.

"These neighbors have caused a ruckus. This could be a very expensive thing because of what you've done," Searle said.

But Kemp said last week that he believes the site may be a former airport, "a little bit of surface debris won't make it a landfill."

Searle added that in registering the site with the town "needs to demonstrate that the area is not a landfill, it hasn't been used as a landfill since 1981." He suggested the town use Board of Selectmen min-

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He said he had talked with community relations spokesman John Giarrusso of Seabrook Station, and Giarrusso told him that Seabrook Station "was unwilling to assure the public in writing that the proposed parking area is not and never will be a national security risk."

Giarrusso, however, said in a separate interview that he sees no security issues on Island Path.

"There would be no threat to Seabrook Station from that location. There is absolutely no threat at

all to Seabrook Station," Giarrusso said.

The study committee is scheduled to meet this Wednesday at the town offices on Winnacunnet Road.

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