

## **Town Council Authorization Open Space and Greenbelt Management Committee**

**Charge:** To prepare for Town Council consideration a plan for management of town open space and greenbelt trails, except for Fort Williams which already has an established management structure.

**Open Space and Greenbelt Management Plan Committee:** The members of the Conservation Commission will join with the Town Council Liaison (Councilor Sullivan) to form the committee.

**Development of the Management Plan:** The Town of Cape Elizabeth now owns close to 10% of the total acreage of the town as open space with legal public access. Much of the land includes greenbelt trails. The open space and the trails are highly valued by town residents and significantly contribute to community character. Both the quantity of open space and the use of the greenbelt trails have progressed to the level where a management plan is needed to cohesively guide the town in its stewardship responsibilities. The management plan should, at a minimum, address the following:

1. Open space location, identification, classification and common use (trails, fields, etc)
2. User conflicts within each space (dogs, snowmobiles, horses, mountain bikes, etc.)
3. Hunting
4. Abutter encroachments/ unauthorized construction;
5. Easements and deed restrictions; catalogue and standardize
6. Hours of operation
7. Funding
8. Signage: type, visibility, legal guidelines re: unauthorized removal, etc.
9. Website
10. Mapping
11. Maintenance (vegetation removal, invasive plants, dead trees)
12. Standard trail specification: review of existing trails and their condition, consideration of trail surface design for specialized uses, if warranted
13. Identification and responsibility of: Conservation Commission, Town Council, Public Works, neighborhood groups and other key stakeholders, etc.
14. Statement of short and long term goals of the management plan

**Responsibilities of the Committee:**

1. Prepare a plan and submit to the Town Council by December 31, 2010.
2. Hold at least 1 public forum (? Early September)
3. Status report to Town Council every 6 months from date of first meeting.
4. Public notice on town website of all meetings.

**Staff:** Town Planner, who shall also coordinate with Public Works Director.