

**LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road**  
**Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2024**

**Members Attending:** Gale Carey, Neil Slepian, Darrell Ford, Myrta Janosz, Sara Callaghan and Marty Gorham.

**Absent:** Ann Welsh, Ted Howard, Carolyn Singer, John Carroll and John Nachilly.

**Also attending:** Todd Selig.

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:31am by Gale Carey.

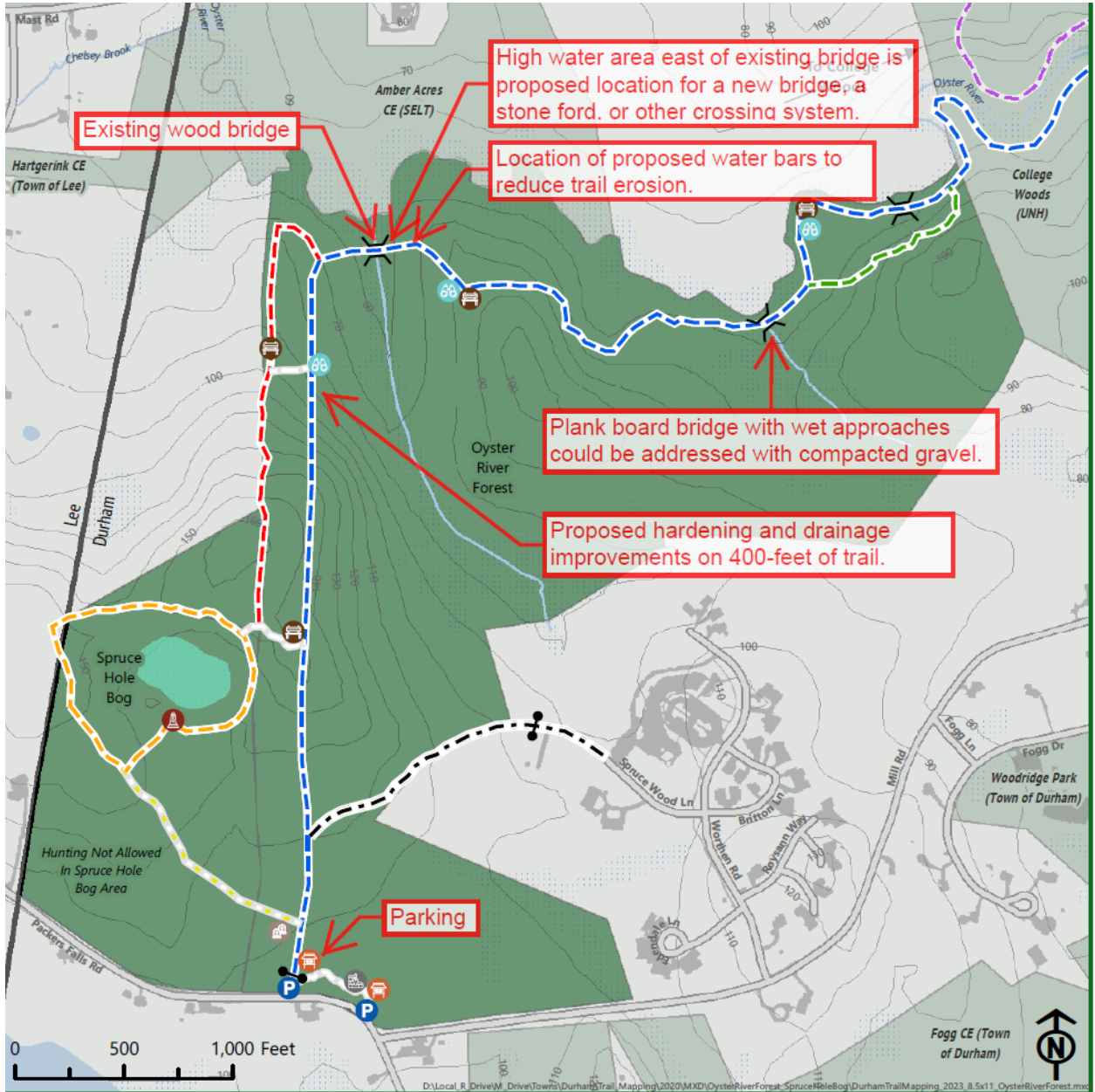
*Sara Callaghan is in attendance as an alternate.*

2. The meeting agenda was approved.
3. The minutes for the October 9, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved with one abstention.
4. At 8:55am the members departed for site walk at the Oyster River Forest.

The attending members traveled to the Oyster River Forest and Spruce Hole Bog gated access road and walked for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile along the blue trail to the location of an existing wood bridge. This area has recurring problems with flooding on both approaches to the bridge. Just east of the bridge there is a very wet area where over-flow water bypasses the existing bridge and stream. Further east the trail slopes upward where there is visible erosion.

In late September Sara met at the site with Greg DiSanto from Martin Forestry Consulting, LLC to discuss some possible approaches to addressing these issues.

- The existing bridge could be raised approximately 12", or reconstructed with pressure treated lumber. The approaches on each side of the bridge could be improved with stone or gravel. Current estimates to replace this bridge are in the range of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for materials, labor and disposal of the existing bridge.
- East of the bridge, at the overflow, there could be a new bridge constructed, or a stone ford could be constructed.
- Further east, where the trail slopes upward, water bars could be installed to help control sheet water flow and reduce erosion on the trail. Current estimate to install two water bars is \$1,200.
- Hardening and drainage improvements on 400-feet of soft tread within a 600-foot stretch of trail through the field. Current estimate to deliver and place stone and gravel is \$5,000 to \$7,000.
- Approximately 1/4 mile east there is another plank board bridge with wet approaches on both sides. This could be addressed by placing and compacting gravel in these areas.



5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.