



Trails and Greenways Committee

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE
2. ROLL CALL
3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES
4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes of 12/11/2023

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 4.a

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 4.a** (Agenda_Report_Number_4.a.pdf)

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. ACTION ITEMS
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7.a

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.a** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.a.pdf)

b. MSS Restoration Plan Observations and Concerns

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7.b

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.b** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.b.pdf)

c. Cameron Preserve Update

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7.c

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.c** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.c.pdf)

d. Eagles Nest Trailhead

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7.d

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.d** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.d.pdf)

e. Briar Creek Blvd. Crossing Sign Discussion

Agenda Report Number 7.e

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.e** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.e.pdf)

f. Next Field Event - TBD

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7.f

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7.f** (Agenda_Report_Number_7.f.pdf)

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Member Comments

b. Staff Reports

Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 8.b

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 8.b** (Agenda_Report_Number_8.b.pdf)

c. Next Scheduled Meeting Date

9. ADJOURNMENT

Contact: Richard W. Kohler (rkohler@townofmalabar.org 321-727-7764) | Agenda published on 01/11/2024 at 1:28 PM

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.a
Meeting Date: January 16th, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Approve Minutes of 12/11/2023

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. Summary of Actions at the Trails and Greenways Committee Meeting of 12/11/2023

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Draft Minutes of T&GC Meeting of 12/11/2023

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Request Approval

**MALABAR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 11th, 2023, 6:00 PM**

This meeting of the Malabar Trails and Greenways Committee was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road.

1. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. Prayer and Pledge led by Chair Thompson.

2. ROLL CALL:

CHAIR:	DREW THOMPSON
VICE-CHAIR:	MURRAY HANN
BOARD MEMBERS:	BOB WILBUR BARBARA CAMERON MARK GUNTER
GRANT/VALKARIA LIASON:	CRAIG SMITH – 6:44 Arrived
BOARD SECRETARY:	RICHARD KOHLER

- 3. Additions/Deletions/Changes-** Secretary Kohler requests to add RTP Grant as discussion item 7.f. Chair requests to add discussion item 7.d(1) South Brevard Linear Trail Master Plan. Consensus is reached to add both items as requested.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.a. Regular Trails and Greenways Committee Mtg Minutes of 11/13/2023.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by CM Wilbur/CM Hann.

Discussion: None

All Ayes: Carried 5-0.

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

- 6. ACTION ITEMS:** None.

7. DISCUSSION

a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

VC Hann states that the trails are in excellent condition. The area north of Corey Road is still very deep, but the trails are flowing nicely. CM Gunter states he noticed the same. Chair asks if the wetland could be expanded to become a permanent water feature? VC Hann states it could be, but St. Johns has been difficult in the past. Chair states he would like to see a permanent water feature added in our reimagining of the Cameron Preserve. CM Cameron asks if any of the areas are designated as wetlands? Secretary Kohler states the Brevard County GIS Map has a wetland layer which shows several active wetlands in the Cameron Preserve. CM Wilbur states we may be able to improve an area, but he feels we should not add or expand any water features. Chair states he hopes to improve the north crossing of Briar Creek Blvd. He would like to have a sign that states “100-Acre Cameron Preserve Town of Malabar. This Al Tuttle Trail is part of the proposed 22-mile South Brevard County Linear Trail System.” He hopes to improve the viability of the trail crossing, and to provide additional safety. CM Cameron asks if we have the funds for this project? Chair states he is unsure, but if we are hoping to preserve the Cameron Preserve, we should take action to mark it. Secretary Kohler suggests moving an existing map and welcome sign to the entrance? VC Hann states he likes that suggestion. Secretary Kohler states he can contact the EELs program and ask if we can post the sign and map on their fence. VC Hann states he feels we could use the existing posts and place the map and sign in front of the fence. CM Wilbur states he feels the sign is more

protected from vandalism where it is, and that a second smaller sign should be added to the roadway. Chair again requests a new sign to be designed and placed along Briar Creek Blvd. VC Hann states we should install a proper crossing at the North trail crossing. We would need partnership with Palm Bay. Chair asks for support for one sign on the west side of the road, affixed to 2 2'x4's in the ROW. VC Hann states he likes the idea of having it on the west side, as any signs in the parking area will be hit by cars. CM Wilbur suggests creating a custom Welcome to Malabar Sign that includes the Cameron Preserve information. Chair states he would like to clean up the entrance to Town and increase the viability and exposure of the Cameron Preserve. VC Hann suggests to have Chair Thompson create a combined sign to be reviewed at the next meeting.

VC Hann states that Tracy Wright inquired about having a sign for the Kayak Launch. He states we do have an extra 3'x3' sign that we could give to her. Chair states he feels it is more than appropriate.

MOTION: CM Hann/ CM Gunter to provide one 3'x3' map to Tracy Wright at Turkey Creek Sanctuary.

Vote: All Ayes (5-0)

b. MSS Restoration Plan Observations and Concerns

Chair asks if there are any concerns about the project? He observed that there hasn't been much activity. Liaison Smith states he has not noticed any equipment. VC Hann states he has not seen any. CM Gunter states he believes the equipment has moved off site. VC Hann states the EELs program have marked selected trees to not be reduced during the project restoration. He also states he attended the EELs REAC meeting last month, and he asked how they plan to restore the core trail area. He was told by the program director that they do not know, but they have \$400,000 set aside for the project. They were asked to vote on whether e-bikes and one-wheels should be allowed, and he declined to vote to ban them. CM Wilbur suggests getting before and after pictures of the restoration area. VC Hann suggests getting drone footage of the area as well. Chair states we have wanted to have a virtual trail video of the area for a long time.

c. Cameron Preserve

Chair asks where we are on the Cameron Preserve restoration? VC Hann states he is still working on the specifications. Chair states he is still working to hang the Cameron Preserve Boundary Signs, and he plans to hang them soon. VC Hann also reinforces the importance of having the Boundary signs facing the right direction, with the highest concentration of signs near the corner.

d. Eagles Nest Trailhead

Secretary Kohler states he has contacted Heidi Kruger with the specification for the well. When they provide the final quote, it will be provided to Council for final approval. Chair states the Lt he spoke to was very interested in the dual tank holder for the trailhead. CM Wilbur suggests asking the FD to design the tanks. Chair states the tanks will also create pressure without the need for electricity. Liaison Smith asks if there will be a T in the well to tie into for restrooms? Chair states not at this time.

d.(1) South Brevard Linear Trail

Chair states that VC Hann has been appointed the Chair of the BPTAC to discuss the South Brevard Linear Trail. Chair asks if VC Hann was able to chat with the L3 Harris Plant head. VC Hann states he has not, but will work to soon. VC Hann states the idea of linking with Valkaria and the Goat Creek access would be a great win for the area.

e. Next Field Event – TBD

Chair states that he and CM Gunter will hang "Cameron Preserve Boundary" signs soon. For the next work event, he would like to put in the fence. Could we do the fence before the rest of the dirt comes in at ENT? CM Wilbur states yes we can. Chair suggests a two day work event to install the fence, with day one being a prep day, and day 2 being the install. VC Hann asks if we should concrete the corners and the gate posts. CM Wilbur suggests only concreting the ends. Chair states we already have enough wood and materials for the project. VC Hann states he has a draft design already prepared. Chair reiterates the request for additional dirt at ENT. Chair suggests January 12th and 13th.

f. RTP Grant

Secretary Kohler states VC Hann shared this possibility with him on Friday. He is in the process of reviewing it, but feels the Committee may wish to pursue these projects for a February submission. VC Hann states he has revised the plan for the underpass project. He feels the only thing left out is the build list of materials. He also feels that the underpass project would be a perfect fit for this grant. He would like to see a refreshed approval from Council. He also would like to see the Town support the financial aspects of it, as it is a major safety improvement. He would also like to include an overlook pavilion in the project, however, he feels the underpass is more important. He would need two things for this to move forward; 1, a positive motion from Council that they would support this and fund the match, and 2, approval from Mike Knight. He feels both of these are easily achievable. He would also like to do some experimental drilling in the area to test the compaction.

MOTION: VC Hann/CM Cameron to request approval from Council to pursue the RTP grant for the underpass trail.

Vote: All Ayes (5-0)

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Board Member Comments:** CM Cameron requests name tags for herself, CM Gunter and Liaison Smith. CM Wilbur states he will mow the ENT this week. Chair requests Staff call in the dig area before the fence install. CM Gunter states that on Thanksgiving Eve there were ATVs in the MSS. They entered from Malabar Road along the Briar Creek Blvd ROW. He did report it to the Sheriff. He also reported some apparent homeless activity, and the offending materials were removed.
- b. **Staff Reports:** Secretary Kohler informed the Committee that Council has decided to revisit the combining of board in January, but agreed in principle that having two boards is preferred.
- c. **New Business:** Secretary Kohler states that Council has selected January 8th as the date for their January RTCM. Would the Committee like to consider a Tuesday or Thursday meeting? Chair suggests January 16th. Consensus is reached.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION: HANN/HARVEY to adjourn. Vote: All Ayes. The meeting adjourned 8:21 PM.

BY:

Drew Thompson, Chair

1/16/2024

Date Approved: as presented:

Richard W. Kohler, Board Secretary

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.a

Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. Traditionally, members of the Committee share their recent experiences from the trails and at the trailheads.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Discussion

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.b

Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: MSS Restoration Project Observations and Concerns

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. Chair Thompson requested this item be added to the monthly reviewed items on the T&GC Agenda. He states his hope is that this will provide a basis for some historical record of the project's impact on T&GC infrastructure as otherwise there exists no permits active to which progress / problems would be recognized by and/or acted upon by TOM.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None.

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. None.

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.C

Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Cameron Preserve Update

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. The Trails and Greenway's Committee has been actively working towards improving the Cameron Preserve with additional signage and potentially updating the Management Plan.
 - a. Town Staff met with the FCT Administrator for our area to perform a site visit at Cameron Preserve, Eschenberg Preserve, and the Disc Golf Sanctuary.
 - b. Mr. MacMahon indicated that the FCT would like to see an updated management plan for the properties.
 - c. Staff informed him that the Committee plans to amend the existing plan to give the Town more autonomy over its land, and to incorporate a regular burn cycle in the scrub area.
 - d. Staff also expressed the Committee's wish to maintain the western portion of the property as a Deep Woods or Old Forest section. Mr. MacMahon stated he understood and tentatively approves of our continuing in that direction.
- b. Town Staff scheduled ECOR Pest Control to spray the Cogan Grass identified by VC Hann on the firebreak immediately north of the Country Cove Subdivision. They sprayed the affected area on Tuesday April 11th.
 - a. The area will be safe to disc 14 days after application of the pesticide.
 - b. On 9.19, Staff was able to contact a Mr. Suggs with the State Forest Service and provided him a map of the area we hope to be disced, as well as VC Hann's communication information.
 - c. On 11.01, Staff and CM Hann met with 3 members of the Florida Forestry Division.
 - i. They indicated an influx of funding will allow them to assist in cutting of firebreaks, mechanical vegetation reduction, and controlled burns.
 - ii. They also indicated that any area the Committee wishes to burn must be bordered on all sides by an effective fire line.
 - iii. Staff has developed a rough draft of proposed fire lines which would integrate the scrub habitat restoration cycle previously discussed.
 - iv. Staff has also communicated to Malabar FD about maintaining the firebreaks once they have been refurbished. If the Town procures the proper equipment, they would be willing to assist regularly.
- c. The signs requested at the July 10th Meeting have been procured and are awaiting instillation. Signs received include:
 - a. 25 "Cameron Preserve Boundary" signs (6"x12")
 - b. 8 "Kiosk Map" signs (36"x36")
 - c. 8 "On-Trail Map" signs (24"x24")
- d. The Bike repair stand has also been received and is awaiting instillation.
- e. VC Hann stated at the 11/13 meeting he would develop modifications to the firebreak plan and provide specifications for the mechanical reduction of zone 4.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Emails between Town Clerk, Interim Chief Giantonio, and Lt. Hooker of Malabar FD.

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Discussion

Richard Kohler

From: Anthony Gianantonio
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Richard Kohler; Joseph Hooker
Subject: Re: Cameron Preserve Firebreaks

Richard,

I concur with Lt. Hooker. As long as we can get the training on utilizing the equipment, I am sure we will have personnel wanting to assist in maintaining the trails in the Cameron Preserve.

Thanks to both of you.

Anthony Gianantonio
Driver/Engineer - Interim Fire Chief
Malabar Fire Department



From: Richard Kohler <townclerk@townofmalabar.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Joseph Hooker <jhooker@malabarfd.org>; Anthony Gianantonio <agianantonio@malabarfd.org>
Subject: RE: Cameron Preserve Firebreaks

Thanks Lt! I appreciate the willingness to assist. It is still a ways out from reality, but good to know where everyone stands going in.

Richard W. Kohler

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Malabar, FL 32950
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From: Joseph Hooker <jhooker@malabarfd.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:17 AM
To: Richard Kohler <townclerk@townofmalabar.org>; Anthony Gianantonio <agianantonio@malabarfd.org>
Subject: RE: Cameron Preserve Firebreaks

I am willing to do it as I am sure others will be as well.

From: Richard Kohler <townclerk@townofmalabar.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Anthony Gianantonio <agianantonio@malabarfd.org>
Cc: Joseph Hooker <jhooker@malabarfd.org>
Subject: Cameron Preserve Firebreaks

Good Afternoon Guys,

This morning, I met with a Mr. Jamie Aimes (former Malabar FD Volunteer) and 2 other members of the Florida Forestry service to discuss the firebreaks in the Cameron Preserve. We discussed at length the recutting and future maintenance of the firebreaks in the Cameron Preserve.

The goal is to create 5 distinct areas or zones to the preserve, each bound by a complete firebreak. I have attached a few maps that should help you visualize the proposal. Map 1 shows the proposed zones, and map 2 shows the proposed firebreaks we would like to have established. We hope to keep the western most area of the preserve as is, as a deep woods old growth forest (Zone 1). The eastern area will hopefully be divided by firebreaks into 4 zones which will be reduced, burned, and maintained in a circular pattern (Zones 2-5).

Forestry informed me that they have received considerable funding from the State to accomplish projects like these, so we will be working towards that goal. If Forestry were to cut the firebreaks, it would be the responsibility of the Town to maintain them. If we were to purchase a disc, do you think a member of the FD could run a tractor to recut the firebreaks in the future? It should only take a day or two each year, and we would provide training for whoever runs the machine.

I hope to bring this proposal to the Trails and Greenways Committee on Monday November 13th. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions or concerns before then.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you both to provide a safe environment for our residents and visitors to enjoy.

Thank you!

Richard W. Kohler

Town Clerk

townclerk@townofmalabar.org

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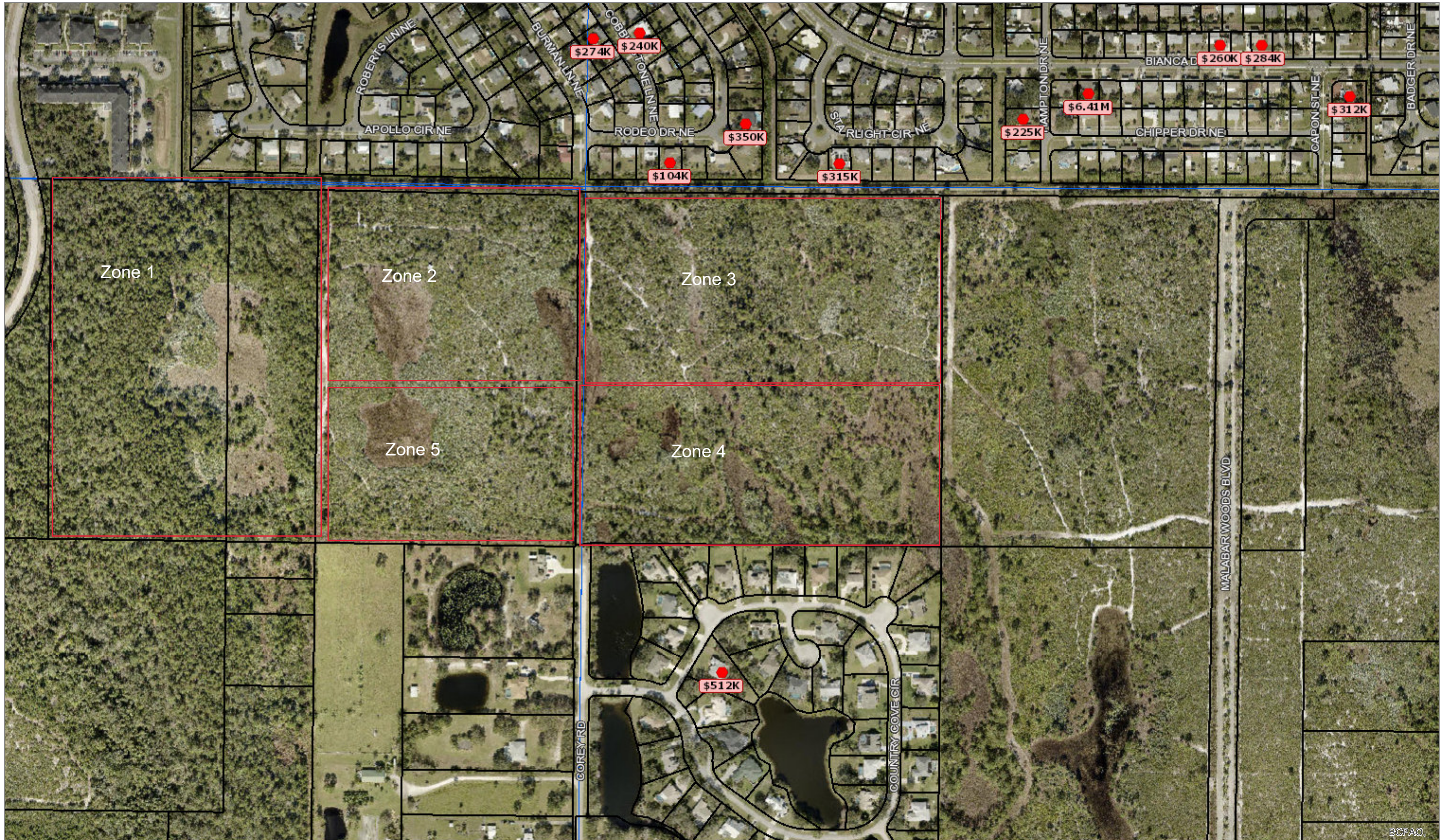


Town of Malabar

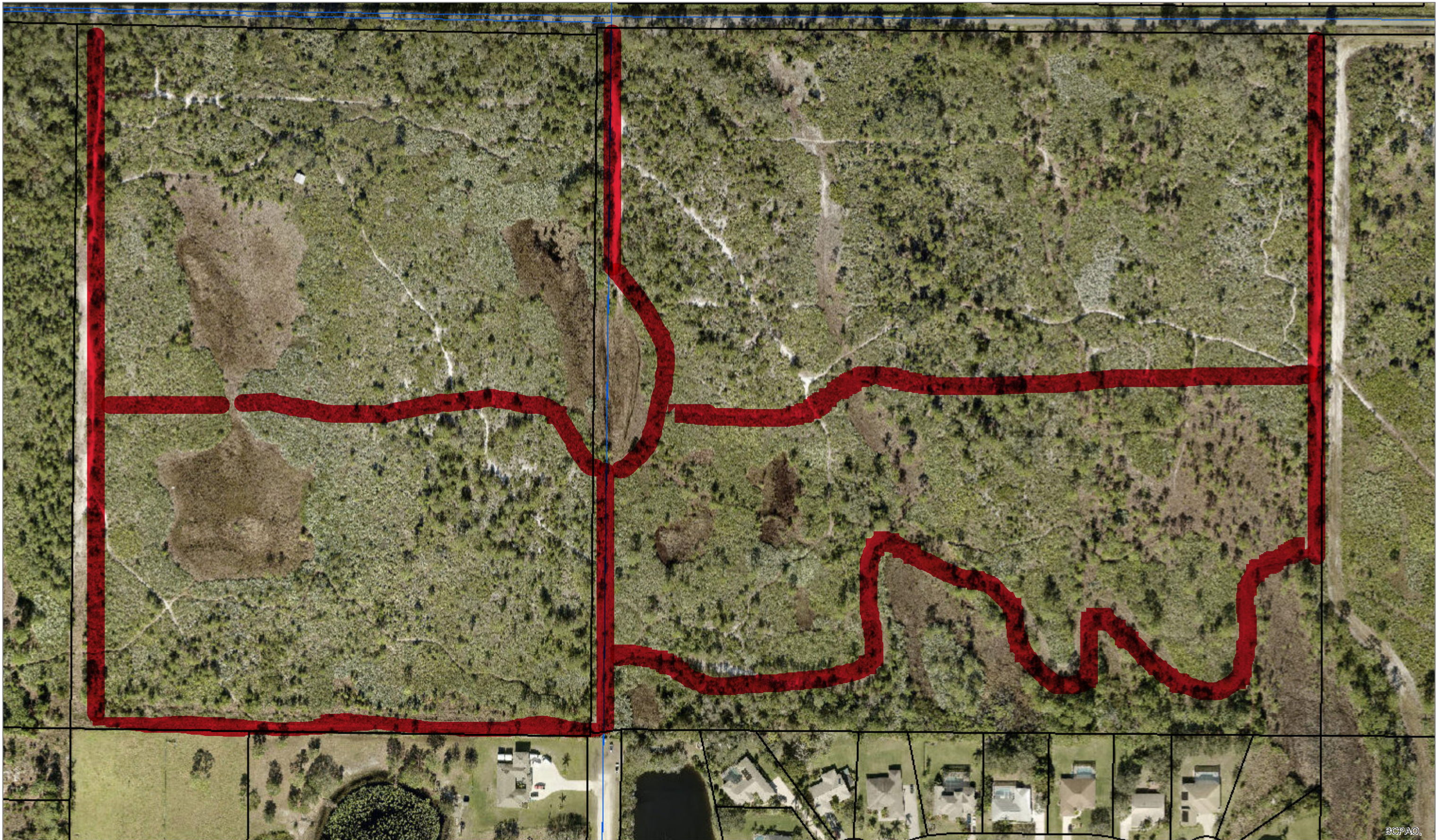
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TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.d
Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Eagles Nest Trailhead

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. The Trails and Greenway's Committee has been actively working towards improving the Eagles Nest Trailhead.
- b. The Committee has indicated it wishes to install the fence line next.
- c. The Malabar Public Works Department has been tasked with bringing in additional fill dirt. A PO for 150 additional tons has been opened.
- d. The Malabar PW Department has successfully brought in several loads of fill dirt. TM Stinnett is coordinating with CM Vail to grade the dirt on site as more is brought in.
- e. The Committee has expressed interest in installing a temporary culvert at the northern exit. Former TM Stinnett has indicated he will coordinate with a contractor to complete this task.
- f. CM Vail has stated he wishes to develop a drainage swale on the Northern edge of the property, running from east to west, along the whole boundary of the property. He plans to leave a 10-foot vegetative buffer, add a 10-foot-wide swale area to include drainage and a maintenance path.
- g. Staff has requested an engineer reviewed drainage plan and filing a permit for the drainage work.
- h. Interim Chief Giantonio of Malabar FD attended the July meeting to discuss the possibility and applicability of a Fire Well at the Trailhead.
 - a. Interim Chief Giantonio provided staff with the response he received about the Fire Well Grant.
 - b. Staff contacted 3 well drillers seeking quotes for a fire well at ENT.
 - i. Heidi Kruger Well Drillers
 1. Not qualified or certified to install Fire Well. Fire Well traditional 6–8-inch pipe.
 2. Can drill 4 inch well. This is what was originally discussed. Quoted at \$8,600.00.
 3. Can also drill a 2 inch well. Stated this is standard for Equestrian Trailheads. Quoted at \$4,000.00.
 - ii. Florida Well Drillers – Spoke to representative, took my information but never responded.
 - iii. Aqua Source Well Drillers – Called and Emailed, no response yet.
 - c. Staff has requested a formal quote from Heidi Kruger Well Drillers for a 4 inch well. The quote will be brought to Council for final approval.
- i. Staff found several contracts for soil testing. If the Committee is interested, Staff may request soil samples be taken of the pile at the Town Yard on Marie Street. If it meets the required standard, that could be used as fill in the ENT.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None.

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. None

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: **7.e**
Meeting Date: January 16th, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Briar Creek Blvd Crossing Sign Discussion

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. At the 12.11.2023 TGC Meeting, Chair Thompson suggested creating a new sign to be placed on Briar Creek Blvd adjacent to the Cameron Preserve.
- b. VC Hann suggested Chair Thompson create a draft sign for review at the 1.16.2024 TGC Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Review Draft Sign provided by Chair Thompson.

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.f
Meeting Date: January 16th, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Next Field Event – TBD

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. A Trail Day was planned for January 12th and 13th to prepare and install the fence at the Eagles Nest Trailhead. This workday can be rescheduled.
- b. The Town also received the components for the Bike Repair Station. It is ready for installation at the CTS on a future workday.
- c. Chair Thompson, VC Hann, CM Gunter and Liaison Smith have volunteered to put up the Cameron Preserve Boundary Signs. If any remain to be placed, that could be combined with a Bike Repair Station and Trail Maintenance day in Cameron Preserve.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Discussion

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8.b
Meeting Date: January 16th, 2024

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Staff Reports

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. Council discussed the possibility of combining the Trails and Greenways Committee and the Parks and Recreation Board at their 11.20 RTCM. The following is an excerpt from the approved 11.20.2023 RTCM minutes:
 - “CM Hofmeister states that she feels the Parks and Rec Board has not met often recently and wanted to explore the option of combining the Parks and Rec with the Trails and Greenways. Clerk Kohler states that this item was presented to both the Parks and Rec Board and the Trails and Greenways Committee at their November meetings. Both groups expressed their preference of remaining independent, and stated they would promote the vacancies in an effort to gain more Parks and Rec members. One resident has already requested an application, and one other has inquired about the position. CM Vail states that it is hard to get volunteers, so we should do what we can to get more applicants. CM Acquaviva states that P&R might be meeting too frequently, maybe have meetings quarterly and have more as needed. She would like to see more involvement from the Boards and Committees, including coming to Council meetings to make presentations and requests. Mayor Reilly states we can revisit this in January of 2024.”
- b. Staff wishes to reiterate to Committee members the hopes of adding new members to the Parks and Recreation Board.
- c. At the 1.8.2024 RTCM, Council once again discussed the possibility of combining the Parks and Recreation Board and the Trails and Greenways Board. CM Vail suggests aggressively promoting the vacancies, but that if the Board can not fill its vacancies, Council should combine the Boards. Discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. None

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. None.