



Trails and Greenways Committee

Thursday, February 17, 2022 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 01/10/2022
Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 4a

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 4a** (Agenda_Report_Number_4a.pdf)

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. ACTION ITEMS
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions
 - b. New Trail Addition in Cameron Preserve
Exhibit: Agenda Report Number 7b

Attachments:

- **Agenda Report Number 7b** (Agenda_Report_Number_7b.pdf)

- c. Next Field Event - TBD
8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Board Member Comments
 - b. Staff Reports
 - c. Next Scheduled Meeting Date
9. ADJOURNMENT

Contact: Richard W. Kohler (rkohler@townofmalabar.org 321-727-7764) | Agenda published on 02/09/2022 at 1:39 PM

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.a
Meeting Date: February 14, 2022

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

SUBJECT: Approve Minutes of 1/10/2022

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. Summary of Actions at the Trails and Greenways Committee Meeting of 1/10/2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Draft Minutes of T&GC Meeting of 1/10/2022

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Request Approval

MALABAR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
January 10th, 2021, 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 6:10 P.M. Prayer and Pledge led by Chair Thompson.

2. ROLL CALL:

CHAIR:	DREW THOMPSON
VICE-CHAIR:	MURRAY HANN
BOARD MEMBERS:	ANNELIE HARVEY-VIA PHONE
	BOB WILBUR
	DANIEL WAITE
GRANT/VALKARIA LIASON:	CRAIG SMITH
BOARD SECRETARY:	RICHARD KOHLER
COUNCIL MEMBER:	MARY HOFMEISTER

3. Additions/Deletions/Changes

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.a. Regular Trails and Greenways Committee Mtg Minutes of 12/20/2021
Motion to accept by Hann/Waite

All Ayes: Carried 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

6. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

7. DISCUSSION

a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

VC Hann states the trails are in good condition. He has been in Jordan Scrub and in Malabar Scrub East & West. Trails are all open and looking good. CM Wilbur stated that at Eagles Nest Trailhead the entrances and exits have been violated, and it appears that motor vehicles are using it to drive through mud. Chair states he will look into a way to restrict that type of access.

b. TOM RTCM of 2022.01.03 EEL Pgm MSS1 Restoration Presentation Summary

Chair begins by giving a brief review of the 1/3/2022 RTCM. Our goal is to develop some sort of compromise to be heard by the County. VC Hann states he tried to reach a compromise that allowed the EELs program to realize their goals, and to allow user groups to still enjoy their experience.

c. Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Restoration Plan Discussion (Presentation Available upon Request)

VC Hann begins by introducing his compromise plan. He states the plan is very "Trail-Centric" and may not match the goals of the Town. It does not address the removal of trees outside the trail areas. He gave a brief history of the relationship between the EELs program and the trail users. He discussed that the MSS is estimated to have at least 32k visitors each year, possible double that in the COVID era (Slide 3). He then discussed the EELs program goal for a thousand-foot buffer, and in Malabar West, it is impossible (Slides 6-7). The state of FL suggests a 300 ft buffer. He suggests Malabar West is too small and unusually shaped to provide an adequate buffer. He then

discussed his detailed suggestion for Malabar West (slide 9). In Malabar West areas “A” (Slide 10), “B” (Slide 11), “C” (Slide 12), “D” (Slide 13), and area “E” (Slide 14) he discussed detailed ideas for compromise. For Malabar East, he suggests compromises in areas “A” (Slide 15), “B” (Slide 17), “C” (Slide 18), “D” (Slide 19), “E” (Slide 20) and “F” (Slide 21). “Win-win” scenarios are recommended in slides 12, 14 & 21. In reviewing slide 12, Chair Thompson suggests including the active waterways in the area.

Chair Thompson gave information on the EELs SMC meeting coming up in the next month. He then asked the Committee if they support VC Hann’s compromise plan. Consensus is that they all support the idea.

Chair Thompson then begins discussing the letter sent from Mrs. Hann (**Available upon Request**). Secretary Kohler informed the Committee of the County Commission Meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 5 PM.

VC Hann read Mrs. Hann’s proposal out loud for the Committee’s review. Chair suggests inquiring with an Attorney if the EELs program can work with an outdated Management Plan. VC Hann recommends requesting a reliable study of the amount of Scrub Jays in the sanctuary. CM Wilbur does not believe the Scrub Jays are in the EELs program “prime habitat” and suggests more studies before work proceeds. VC Hann states he encountered a pair of Scrub Jays in the Cameron Preserve today.

Chair states that in a month and a half, our group of non-scientists have seen many issues in this plan. Liaison Smith suggests allowing the Jordan Scrub to regrow and analysis the area before Malabar Scrub is worked on. VC Hann states he can’t make sense of the Jordan portion of the project. The Jordan Scrub was burned in 2019, and again in 2021. Why would they need to do it so recently?

Chair suggests the importance of finding out where the money is going. Is the EELs program selling the timber from these projects to balance the checkbook? Chair then shows a photo of the Jordan Scrub after the most recent burn. It will be at least 4 years before a Scrub Oak produces an acorn.

CM Wilbur suggests we encourage the EELs program to investigate the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. They only live in 90–100-year-old pine trees. Why would the program remove a great opportunity to have these birds for the benefit of another? He also suggests investigating the Carbon imprint of the removal of trees, burning, and mulching.

Chair states that the SMC seemed unaware of the fact that removing trees from the sanctuary can alter the groundwater levels. Without trees to soak up the rainwater, the area becomes flooded.

VC Hann states his belief that his compromise, and Mrs. Hann’s presentation is a good path forward. Mrs. Hann’s presentation is a great first step, and if the County won’t do that, follow VC Hann’s compromise.

MOTION: Recommends that Town Council should investigate and pursue the recommendations and observations included in Mrs. Hann’s proposal as a way forward. WILBUR/WAITE (All Ayes) 5-0

Chair Thompson states that the new webpage www.friendsofmalabarscrub.org can be a portal to citizen ideas to be heard at the 1/18/2022.

a. Board Member Comments

CM Waite - stated that he believes the County is viewing this through a narrow lens. He is from Miami, and people from down there travel to areas with forest like this. The species isn't going extinct in the next 50-60 years. The County asks like it is happening now. Also, the County is supposed to build an educational center in the MSS. We should push for that.

CM Wilbur – Reminds the Committee that the area is not called the Malabar Scrub Jay Sanctuary. It is the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. That protects all the species and animals out there.

b. Staff Reports

Secretary Kohler informs the Committee that the magnetic name tags recommended by CM Waite and discussed at the 12/10/2021 T&GC Meeting have been ordered for all Committees, Boards, and most of Town Staff. They are expected to be delivered tomorrow. Feel free to stop by Town Hall to collect them, or they will be held until the next meeting.

c. New Business:

- Next Regular Meeting- February 14th, 2022

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION WILBUR/HARVEY to adjourn. Vote: All Ayes. The meeting adjourned 8:37 PM.

BY:

Drew Thompson Chair

2/14/2022

Date Approved: as presented:

Richard W. Kohler, Board Secretary

TOWN OF MALABAR

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM NO: **7.b**

Meeting Date: February 14th, 2022

Prepared By: Richard W. Kohler, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

SUBJECT: New Trail Addition in Cameron Preserve

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- a. After a unanimous vote at the 1/25/2022 Brevard County Commission Meeting, the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) Program used sections of fence to barricade the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.
- b. Two of these fences are on trails deep into the woods blocking access from the Malabar managed Cameron Preserve
- c. Vice-Chair Hann suggested cutting a new trail, completely in the Cameron Preserve from one fence to the other to allow one directional single track travel once again.

ATTACHMENTS:

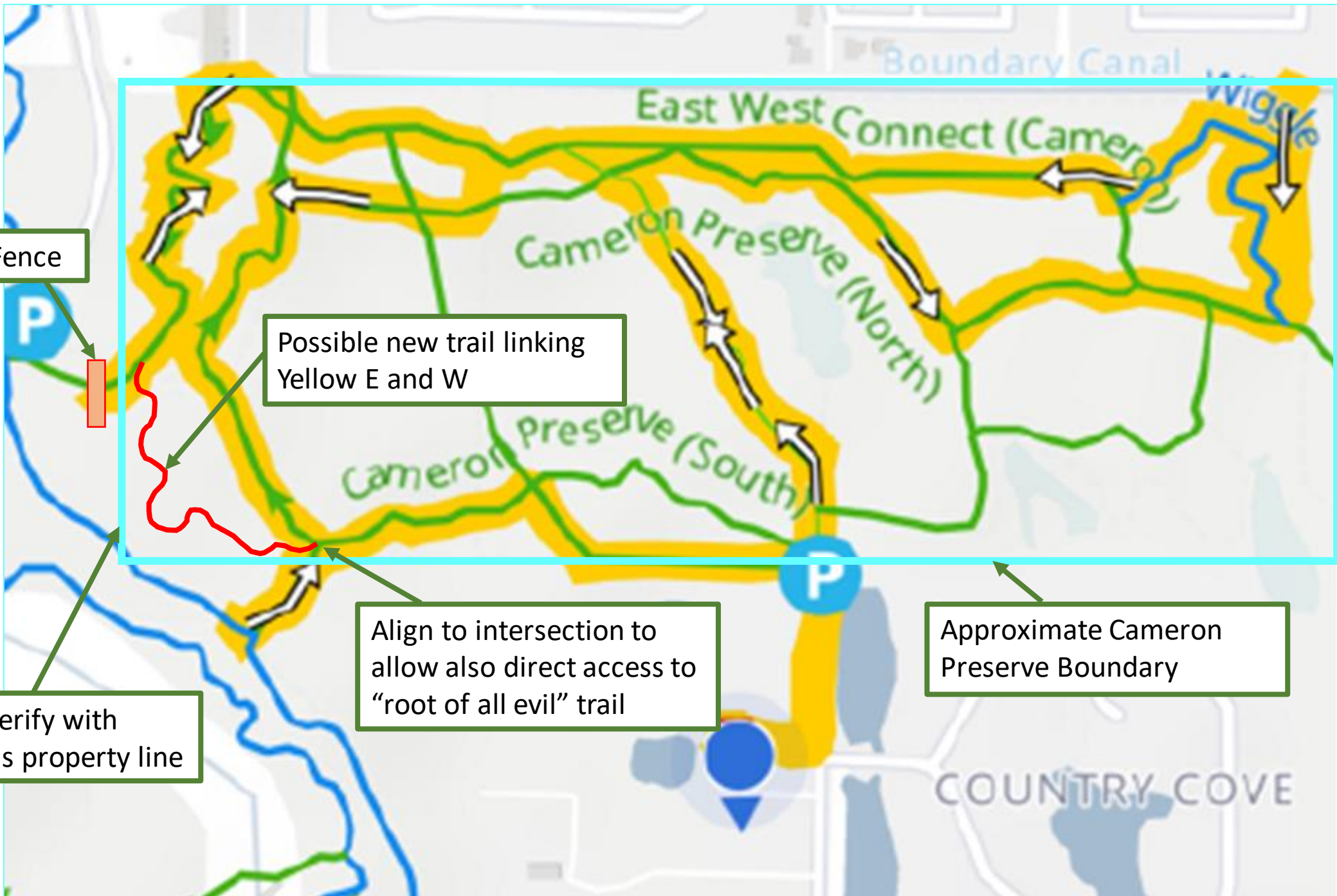
- a. Purpose and Process proposal from Vice-Chair Hann

ACTION OPTIONS:

- a. Discussion/Recommendation to Council for action.

Purpose and Process

- New, Short trail proposed in Cameron preserve – connecting Yellow East and Yellow west trails, entirely on Malabar Cameron Preserve property
 - Advantages:
 - Allows Malabar Cameron trails to continue to operate during times when the EEL program properties are closed for whatever reason
 - Brings trail users on Malabar East directly back to the main Cameron trail intersection, allowing them to then choose either Yellow West or Root of All Evil Trail – so it is very useful trail
 - Increases single-trac in this deep woods' venue
 - Process if approved:
 - We would employ a surveyor to establish Cameron boundaries in the trail area to insure we stay on Cameron property
 - The BMBA cross country team (very experienced single-trac trail builders) would flag the trail and ask that the T&GC chairman review the flagging prior to continuing, then cut the trail ~18” wide – very similar to the process used successfully in Turkey Creek sanctuary on the recently completed “semi-secret trail”.
 - This effort would dovetail nicely with the ongoing effort to improve Cameron Preserve trail signage
 - T&GC would have to add this trail to the management plan for Cameron Preserve at the next update cycle



EELS Fence

Possible new trail linking Yellow E and W

Need to verify with Survey this property line

Align to intersection to allow also direct access to "root of all evil" trail

Approximate Cameron Preserve Boundary