

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, December 1, 2016

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order – 4:03 PM**
- II. **Attendance**
 - a. **Members in Attendance:** Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, Denise Descheneaux, June Evered, Matt Allen, Bruce McDermott, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Brae Rafferty, Bea Smith, Joan Smith,
 - b. **Alternates in Attendance:** Sidney Van Zandt, Tom Jannke
 - c. **Members Absent:** A. Neil Brown, Carla Henschel, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Rick Steven,
 - d. **Guests in Attendance:** Jenna Gosselin
- VIII. **New Business – done out of order so Jenna could do her update**
 - a. **New trail webpage**

Website has been down for months. Has been working over last two months to get website back up.
- III. **Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns**

None
- IV. **Approval of Minutes – September 22, 2016**

Latest version was done yesterday with updates. Motion to accept by Bruce McDermott, seconded by June. One Abstention (Joan Smith) – rest approved.
- V. **Correspondence/Communication**

Email on Land Swap – 0 (*zero*) Long Hill Road – Parcel State will accept in exchange for "Boulder Heights" up in back of the apartments. Sit is bouldering and unusable but directly adjacent to Northbound I-95. Town needs athletic fields – Studied regarding Merritt Property – but there is a conflict with the Board of Education. Need trails and parking lot put in over next two (2) years as part of the swap.
- VI. **Reports**
 - a. **Avalonia**

They finished the stewardship manual needed for approval of their application to the LTA." Redoing chargers, clearing trails from trees blown down. Christmas event on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 PM – North Stonington and Land Trust event and gathering.

b. Copp Property

Town Public Works Department is going to do a spur trails going over to the events field. Mowing events field 3x a year, field out back 1x year. Going to bid for sign under kiosk. No leash law in Groton so leash rules can't go in parks. If Town of Groton decides to, it can create leash laws.

c. X-Town Trail

Mark mentioned the Town is still waiting for a survey. Received the okay for bridge from principal of Cutler Middle School and BOE Director of facilities to go in, but we need survey and wetlands survey done. Until position is filled, project is at a standstill. Suggest contacting City for assistance.

d. GOSA

The map of Avery Farm North – a narrow spot of Lambtown Road, Ledyard Public Works widened road which changes trail access.

Discussion of various open space properties

2012 – Bluff Point and Haley Farm – Parks Supervisor almost 400,000 estimated people had been on Haley Farm and Bluff Point. 370,000 came to Town of Groton. Sometimes Town Residents object to Parks but they do bring in people who spend money. Sometimes parking lot is full. In 2015 on a summer afternoon 230+ people came.

e. Town Trails

No report

f. TriTown Trails

Toward end of planning connect Preston Park through two properties. At Wetlands Commission next Tuesday. Were approached by COG for SECT trails, apply for \$650,000.00 on October 1 grant for trails construction – will see it beginning of year. Two miles of trail connect Town properties via consent easement.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. X-Town Trail

Covered in update.

b. Bikeway proposal – Depot Road to Thomas Drive

Contracting with VHB to do a survey of needs. Haven't heard from them in a couple of months. Lined up bike shops to send out survey including

Facebook pages and clubs. Perhaps walkway along Poquonnock River could be widened, taking you to bridge at Human Services.

c. Mystic River Park - (by the Oral School)

Waiting for Town to hire surveyor – then do wetlands survey. Still haven't heard from State on using boat launch on Mystic River as parking lot at trail head. Suggested going to Graha Steven to get some action. Local Park guy is (allegedly) overwhelmed with 18 parks.

VIII. New Business

a. New trail webpage

GIS Server and Webserver stopped talking to each other and it broke the link. Now everything is on the GIS site. New site is tablet and smart phone friendly. New version allows you to make your own maps in .pdf form and any other. Has a new locator button to show where you are GIS. Need a 3G/4G or smart phone. Can plan points, lines, polygons, deer, symbols. Also have a new green space map. Bookmark the site to save clicking. Suggest putting info on new website on public access, social media, and The Day. Perhaps something in the park to reference website. Perhaps do a QR code at the entrance. Also – perhaps a display map at entrance for those without phones. There is a Map at the Copp. That will be the first. BOSS prints trail maps – Manlers, NY – Avalonia used them.

Also discussion of trees to be trimmed for runway access to Airport. Article was in The Day. There is a document on file in the Groton Library and Bill Memorial Library. Also on-line. Tall trees. Citizens of Groton Council Chambers meeting on December 8, 2016.

IX. Next meeting March 23, 2017, 4 pm Groton Senior Center

X. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn made by Joan Smith,
Seconded by Bruce. Adjourned at 5:25 PM.

2 pc

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

3/23/17

Date