

## Minutes

### Bluff Point to Preston Trail Committee (Tri Town Trail Assoc.)

Groton Public Library, May 24, 2011

Called to order 9:15 am

**ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Kil, Al Dion, Sue Sutherland, Dave Holdridge, Allan Goulet, Karen Parkinson, Wayne Chiapperini, Wayne Goodrich, Marty DeMaio, Chad Frost,  
**IN KIND HOURS FOR APRIL WERE COLLECTED.**

Dave welcomed several new faces at the table, including Al Dion, who attended in the past representing the GPU. We welcome Al's input. Marty DeMaio lives on Sandy Hollow Road near the reservoir. Wayne Goodrich has also attended our meetings in the past. They were all happy that we are still pursuing this project as we all believe that it will be good for the quality of life of our citizens.

April 2011 Minutes were approved with the correction that reflects the change in amount of money from SECOG from \$3500 to \$2209.75. Wayne says that he was giving an approximate amount at the last meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Dave: Reported that the Liability Legislation bill has passed The House and is in The Senate . Dave contacted Senators Maynard and Prague asking them to support this Bill. Both said they were in favor. Hopefully it will pass before the end of this session. Over 20 senators have already co-sponsored this Bill. It must also be signed by the Gov. This Bill is significant because it would alleviate liability for municipal land owners and GPU.

The Town of Ledyard is about to enter into an important contract with GPU about managing the water . It would be to the town's benefit if the Council could add language that provided for more public access to the reservoir property over the next two years. GPU wants a smart growth plan for the watershed, while protecting the water supply. GPU supplies water to customers in many towns now, unlike years ago when Groton was the biggest consumer.

Al Dion offered his advice about our efforts to gain access to the reservoir. Right now we are allowed 5 opportunities a year. We should make a point of always using those 5 opportunities. We should proceed in increments , we need public exposure. If people see the trail being used, they will start to ask the GPU for more access. These are the type of Quality of Life issues that people consider when they are looking for a place to live. We can still pursue the Permit approach.

Chad repeated that it is important that we are on the DOT's list of significant trails. The State and the Towns should be working together on conservation and development. Funding is very important and if we can get Kate Rattan from DOT to come to a meeting we could show her the Master Plan.

#### **PHASE ONE< WAYNE AND CHAD *Bluff Point to the Marriott***

Wayne has spoken to John Silsby who is retiring this year. We need to find out who we speak to about placing signs on Depot Road. How many and what type and where exactly should they

be placed. We have a Logo Design ready to go. If they could change one side of the street parking that would be helpful.

Poquonnock Bridge Chamber of Commerce has a Fair in October(Columbus Day Weekend) at the Poquonnock Plains Park. We should look into having a Table.

**TAX EXEMPT STATUS** Karen Parkinson

Finished the Articles of Incorporation ,passed out copies that were approved at the September Meeting.

Chad made a motion, seconded by Sue Sutherland to appoint Karen Parkinson to be our Statutory Agent. The motion included an appropriation of \$100 for the two \$50 filing fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen also passed out a narrative of the history of the group, past, present and future, which must be submitted with the paperwork for our tax exempt status. Chad says he has a narrative that he wrote for the master plan that will fill in some of the missing information. Everyone should look it over. The 501c3 is still in the works.

**TOM TRAIL WALK:** sent an email to Joyce Brown, discussing our suggested walk. She said that route was not really available and suggested that we join the walk listed in Discover Magazine to the Poheganut Pond, on Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:45 to 7:45, starting at the Water Operations Complex. Tom will continue to communicate with them about joining that group, but exploring the possibility of continuing on to the Copp Property, Whose permission would we need? This is an important link in our proposed trail.

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**New Business**

Wayne passed out the treasurer's report. Balance sheet is all we need for a report

**Before the Next Meeting**

Dave will talk to Rick Stevens

Dave will send a letter to the City of Groton Town Council and Mayor

We will invite Kate Driscoll Rattan to the next meeting

Tom will finalize plans for the next walk

Karen will continue to work on 501c3

Chad will contact the Copp Property Board

Adjourned 11:50 AM

Next Meeting June 28, 2011 place tba, a notice will be sent

Submitted

Barbara Kil Secretary