

Copp Board of Overseers
Meeting Wednesday, September 7, 2011 Spicer House, Noank

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Brown.
Overseers present were Neil Brown, Allyn Copp, James Sherrard, and Dom Venditti.
Public present were Ray Valentini, Dave Holdridge, and Doug Ackerman.

There were no citizen's comments.

Board Members James Sherrard and Dom Venditti moved and seconded to accept the minutes for May 4, 2011. The minutes passed unanimously as written.

Watershed Protective Fencing

Ray Valentini representing Groton Utilities – Water Division – made a presentation about the need to better protect the watershed boundary that interfaces with the Copp Park property. It has been noted that the general public is swimming in the reservoirs, canoeing there, and conducting dog recreational activities – all of which are prohibited activities in a drinking water reservoir. These potential safety and health issues need to be addressed to assure a safe water supply as well as public safety. Several potential solutions were discussed, with an emphasis on the need to better alert and advise the public on inappropriate activities in the watershed area. It was mutually determined that Groton Utilities would make a new, separate sign for the entrance to Copp Park that would address permitted and inappropriate activities at the Copp Park and lake reservoir boundary. The language on this new sign would be approved by the Copp Chair, Neil Brown, and constructed and installed at the Copp Park entrance by Groton Utilities at no cost to Copp Park. The goal was to have the new, approved sign in place by October 1, 2011.

Bluff Point to Preston Park Trail System

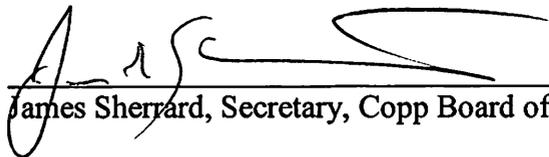
Dave Holdridge representing the trail system made a presentation about the overall goals of this trail system from Long Island Sound in Groton to Preston Park in Preston – and the current status of the system's implementation. The primary trail concept is proceeding well, but one key connection piece would include transit through Copp Park, with a connection strip through the abutting Groton Utilities Watershed area to Route 117 near the Mystic Marriott Hotel. There was a discussion on the merits of completing this trail system and the benefit to area residents. Ray Valentini from Groton Utilities had remained for this presentation; the Copp Board and Mr. Holdridge answered questions about the need for this connector and asked Mr. Valentini to convey back to the Groton City Utilities management team the worth of having this connection in place for the optimal utilization of the overall trail system. Then Member Sherrard moved and Member Brown seconded a motion that the Copp Board of Overseers strongly endorses the realization of this trail system and the passage of the trail system through the Copp Park property. The motion was unanimously approved.
Copp Family Park Trail System Update

Member Brown gave a brief overview of the current status of the park's interior trail system and future trail upgrades and enhancements.

Action on the Open Copp Park Overseer Vacant Position

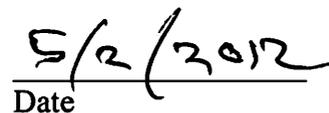
Chairman Brown noted that two individuals had fully responded to the advertisement for filling the vacancy left by the resignation of David Winkler. Application packages for the two individuals were passed out to the board members. The two applicants were Andrew Halsey and Raymond Munn. The overseers strongly felt that both members are highly qualified and appear very interested and motivated to fill this vacancy. A secret ballot was requested. Secretary Sherrard distributed ballots. Mr. Halsey was elected by a majority vote. It was noted that if he accepts the appointment, he would also be automatically added as a director on the Groton Parks Foundation. Because Mr. Munn was such a qualified and interested person, the Overseers directed the Chair to investigate our formal By-laws to see IF we could add one alternate overseer, as currently we have only the five regular overseers. Chair Brown would check with the Town Attorney. If this is possible, the Chair would offer this alternate position to Mr. Munn. It was also the consensus of the overseers that Mr. Munn should be offered the one remaining vacant director position on the Groton Parks Foundation. All such personnel actions would be completed before our next stated meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

There being no further business, Member Copp moved and Member Brown seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm. The motion was passed unanimously.


James Sherrard, Secretary, Copp Board of Overseers

Minutes have been approved and accepted.


Signature


Date