

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, January 24, 2013

7 PM – Groton Senior Center

Special Meeting Minutes

I. Introductions - contact information

II. Meeting ground rules

III. Designate Secretary

Laurie Gorham volunteered to be the secretary of the Trails Coordinating Task Force.

IV. Preliminary Goals

Purpose of Task Force:

Mark Berry described the following:

- Assist in the planning and development of trails according to the Master Plan, which he handed out.
- Seek funding sources and assist in securing them. Suggested forming a subcommittee to work on this.
- Make recommendations regarding signage, marking system, and other policies. Suggestion: standardized trail marking system among all the trails in the region. Kent & Frost is working on a Master Plan and marking system for trails on the Copp property.
- Serve as an educational and advocacy group for the use and expansion of the trail network.
- National Trail Day (CT Forest & Parks Assoc.) Last year Avalonia and Groton Open Space sponsored a walk. There is a map of the hike available on Groton Open Space's website. This year's date for the walk is Saturday, June 1st, and the two groups sponsor the walk again, along with several others.

V. New Goals

- The Groton Parks and Rec website has maps to several of the properties that have hiking trails. Mark Berry passed out a map of the trail system in Essex VT. Discussion ensued about GIS and other additions that could be made for a Groton Trail Systems Map.

- Linking separate trails: The Master Plan includes areas that could be linked. Deb says the Master plan needs to be updated in terms of parcel ownership and new trails. Andrew Bowne, is the GIS Coordinator and will update the maps.
- Oral School: The town owns a parcel where Parks & Recreation used to have swimming. Part of it has been designated open space and is operated by the DEEP. The Conservation Commission has wanted to put a trail there and is waiting for the agreement with the state to be formalized. Mark will follow up on this.

VI. Meeting schedule & time line

4th Thursdays of each month at 4pm. Except in Nov, Dec, and April, because of holidays and Groton Open Space's big fundraiser.

VII. Open Discussion

All committee members – please bring examples of trail signs and markings so that we can discuss it next month.

Also please read the Master Plan.

Discussion of boundry signs – Joellen from Avalonia described their signs. Please email pictures of your favorite signs to dmarshall-baker@groton-ct.gov. Deb will print them out for the next meeting.

Glyphs for trees and threatened plants and placement markers to let people know where they are; interpretive nature trail signs like the ones at Ocean Beach.

Rick Stevens mentioned the lost and injured people that were very difficult for the emergency responders to find because the individuals didn't know where they were.

Andrew Bowne will be invited to the next meeting. Hopefully we will have copies of the updated maps before the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



 Signature

2/28/13

 Date