

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.

- II. Roll Call**

Members in Attendance: Joellen Anderson , Mark Berry, A. Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, June Evered, Carla Henschel, Deb Jones, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Brae Rafferty, Joan Smith, Sue Sutherland, Sidney Van Zandt (alternate member).

Members Absent: Bernie French, Bruce McDermott, Bea Reynolds, Heather Somers, Rick Steven.

Guests in Attendance: None.

- III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns.** None

- IV. Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2013.**

Motion to approve these minutes made by Sidney van Zandt, seconded by Brae Rafferty. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Note: comments on signs made by Sidney van Zandt are reported under Item VII, New Business, Trail Signs.

- V. Correspondence/Communication.**

A letter signed on 12/19/2013 was received from the Mumford Cove Association requesting that the reference to Neptune Drive (a private road) is removed from all on-line and printed maps. It states that Mumford Cove Association is a deeded, private sub-development within the Town of Groton and all roads, trails, recreation areas, and other open space within its borders are private, and are for the exclusive use of residents and their guests. The Town of Groton's attorney is looking into this.

- VI. Reports.**
 - a. Avalonia.** Joellen Anderson reported on the following:
 1. Avalonia Conservancy and library staff installed a hiking display at the Groton Public Library for the month of January;
 2. The conservancy hosted a hike through the Moore Woodlands and around Beebe Pond on Sunday, January 19th, 2014;
 3. Joellen forwarded comments on a segment of the Beebe Pond trail was not quite accurate to Andrew Bowne.
 4. The trail map for Town's End map needs corrections. There is no official parking on the state-owned grass strip in front of the property. There is an underground sewer line with surface vents along that same grassy strip.

5. A more direct route from Beebe Pond to Town's End was discussed at an Avalonia Groton Town Committee meeting.

Sidney hoped that people would be encouraged to fix the top of the Beebe Pond dam as this is not among the CIP projects.

- b. **Copp Property.** Mark Berry reported that the plans for the new trail went to Groton Public works today. Construction will possibly start in July.
- c. **Cross Town Trail.** Sidney reported that trail clearing is working well enough but may not be ready for Trails Day on the first weekend in June.
- d. **GOSA.** GOSA has been escorting at least one hike every Saturday on the Avery property on Lambtown Road. This property spans both Ledyard and Mystic. There is a public road which is closed in the winter. The land is privately owned by the Webers but GOSA is allowed to provide guided hikes. Sidney agreed to inform Mark when these guided hikes are held so that he can inform the other committee members.

They plan on using volunteers for a briar and trees clean-up on the Mortimer Wright property.

Sidney referred to the Connecticut Forest and Parks website for information on a celebration in Guilford of the New England Trails southern gateway.

- e. **Town Trails – Mark Berry.**
 1. The Coast Guard Academy has an advanced GIS class. The instructor, Sabena Bateman, will be meeting with Mark about possible GIS projects for the cadets mapping the trails in Town of Groton parks.
 2. Mark and Deb Jones met with Syma Ebbin, an instructor at Avery Point, who teaches a class on water projects. They discussed a possible management plan to deal with invasive species on Sparkle Lake, and the development of educational environmental trail information. Sidney commented that a group of teachers in the Town of Groton in the 1970s developed a teachers' guide for grades kindergarten through six. The subject of the first year was trees; the second year fresh water ponds and the third year rocks.
- f. **TriTown Trails.** No representative present.

VII. Old Business.

- a. Grants. Mark is requesting a \$25,000 CIP for matching funds for a grant. The committee needs a person, preferably with grant writing skills, to be in charge of grants.

VIII. New Business.

- a. Trail Signs. Sidney had commented that she had not seen any of the new trail logo signs indicating the direction of nearby trails. Mark answered that it was never the intention to post the small logo signs on the town roads. They have been placed at the trail starting points. Committee members remarked that people do not know where the trails are and that we need some road signs. Mark agreed to check into permitting requirements for directional signs along roads.

Joellen and Sidney supported using kiosks as effective in providing information. Certain types of materials are impervious to vandalism. Kiosks could display maps, etc.

Neil commented that if the trails had actual street addresses, people's GPS systems could find them.

IX. Next meeting – February 27, 2014, 4 pm. Groton Senior Center.

- X. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Sidney van Zandt, seconded by Brae Rafferty.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

3/27/14

Date