

Trails Coordinating Task Force
4 PM Thursday, March 27, 2014
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:12pm.

II. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Joellen Anderson , Mark Berry, June Evered, Carla Henschel , Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Gail Munn, Bea Reynolds, Joan Smith, Sue Sutherland.

Members Absent: A. Neil Brown, Bernie French, Diane Glemboski (Alternate member), Kirsten Hoyt, Deborah Jones, Bruce McDermott, Eric Morrison , Mike Murphy, Heather Somers, Rick Steven, Sidney Van Zandt.

Guest in Attendance: Kate Bradley, Parks and Recreation Marketing/ Special Events.

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

Joellen had been approached by a citizen asking if the Town could do anything about the problem of geese overrunning and soiling the Town's open spaces. Mark said that the Board of Education has agreed to share the cost of a dog owned by a Parks and Recreation golf course employee. This dog will be used to help keep the golf course and school playing fields clear of geese. Committee members expressed the wish that this dog could also be used for widely visited sites such as Poquonnock Plains Park. Mark replied that the problem with this is that the employee in question also has fulltime duties at the golf course.

IV. Approval of Minutes – February 27, 2014

Joellen proposed some amendments to the Avalonia report. These are to be attached to the original minutes. Motion to approve these minutes with amendments made by Debralyn Marshall-Baker, seconded by Joan Smith. Approved unanimously.

V. Correspondence/Communication

None.

VI. Reports

a. Avalonia

Joellen reported on the following:

On June 7, Sidney and Joellen will coordinate a series of 5 to 6 mile hikes to celebrate this 100th anniversary of Connecticut's state park system.

There will be a parks display in Groton Public Library also celebrating this event.

b. Copp Property

Mark reported that engineers have almost finished reviewing construction documents. The next step is to meet with consultants to fine tune the plans and then to go out to bid. Mark expects construction to start in late summer. These plans cover about 1/3rd of the entire area. Work will be done on improving existing trails and building a bridge over a wet area.

A Boy Scout is presently planting 6 foot posts in various locations for his Eagle Scout project. These posts are expected to be the foundations for new signs.

c. Cross Town Trail

June asked who reports on this trail and who manages it. The answer is that this is a group effort, including the State, the Town and private parties.

d. GOSA

Joan reported good news, the Ledyard Town Council voted to close off Avery Road to traffic permanently. This means the road will only be open to hikers, bikers and horses. This is a very scenic road that goes through GOSA's Candlewood Farm property. It has an enormous potential to connect with, and open up, other trails and routes. It might also offer an alternate route for the TriTown Trail if the plans for their original route don't work out.

GOSA conducts hikes every Sunday at 2 pm. These hikes are listed on their website.

e. Town Trails

Sparkle Lake. Mark reported that the Town is offering a hike at Sparkle Lake on National Trails Day (June 7). As there is also a small pond in this location, they are talking to the Groton Boating Advisory Board and others and hoping to have kayaks so that people may go out on the water.

G&S Trolley Trail. Debralyn reported that Mumford Cove Association has hired an attorney. The big problem is that the G&S Trolley Trail terminus is on Mumford Cove property. Debralyn spoke with Clint Brown, a previous Town Planner for the Town of Groton about a U-turn version of the trail. This new trail will now avoid Mumford Cove completely. Road surfaces will be repaired and the slope where dirt bikes presently go down will be changed into steps for pedestrians. Debra asked that the road name Neptune Drive and all references to it be erased and totally omitted from all our trail maps.

f. Tri Town Trails

Bea had good news, that five proposals have been received to start the trail up by Preston Plains Community Park. So Ledyard will have an actual trail.

VII. Old Business

Trail Signs

Joellen asked if anyone needed help putting signs up. Sign prices were discussed.

Trails Brochure (Kate)

Kate Bradley, the Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor of Marketing/Special Events, displayed a sample foldable trails brochure and asked what the group would like to see in a similar Groton brochure. Mark is applying for a grant through Chelsea Groton Bank for printing. 1,000 brochures can be printed for \$1,500.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Next Meeting – April 24, 2014, 4 PM Groton Senior Center

X. Adjournment

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date