

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm.

II. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Joellen Anderson , Mark Berry, Eric Morrison, A. Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, Bernie French, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Bruce McDermott, Gail Munn, Bea Reynold , Joan Smith.

Alternates in Attendance:

Members Absent: Diane Glemboski (Alternate member), Sidney Van Zandt (Alternate member), Carla Henschel, Brea Rafferty, Sue Sutherland, June Evered, and Rick Stevens.

Guests in Attendance: None

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns.

It was brought to the group's attention that Hummingbird Hollow stables advertised on their website that there are 32 acres of trails connecting Pequot woods to the L.I. Sound. However, in accordance with the 2011 vote of the Parks Board, horseback riding is allowed only in designated areas, and Pequot Woods is not a permitted area. One member noted that she had seen evidence of horseback riding (horse manure) in Pequot Woods recently. It was suggested that "No Horseback Riding" signs be posted at any of the trail entrances near the stables, that may not have them already..

IV. Approval of Minutes - March 27, 2014.

Motion to approve these minutes made by Joellen Anderson, seconded by Bruce McDermott. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Correspondence/Communication. None.

VI. Reports.

A. Avalonia. Joellen Anderson reported on the following:

1. On their Moore Woods Sign, they have added laminated copies of the Cross Town Trail map and an overview of the Groton Trails in an effort to promote the other local trails.
2. Past President Anne Nalwalk received an award recognizing "Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut" from NRCS and USDA.

B. Copp Property. Neil Brown.

1. There will be a guided walk on Monday at 2 PM starting from the parking lot. The walk will cover any areas that members of the Copp Board of Overseers and the Groton Parks Foundation, or other interested parties would like to see.

2. Kent and Frost are continuing on with their design and oversight work. Less work is being done in the summer to minimize disruption to the public uses.
3. Public Works is presently preparing plans and bid documents to go out to bid for work to be done (hopefully) in the fall.

C. **Cross Town Trail.** There was a successful walk on Saturday, June 7, National Trails Weekend for the cross-town hike from Bluff Point. There were approximately 30 participants. It is suggested that next year, the parking should continue to be at Bluff point, but that the bus be used at the start to take the hikers to Lands' End. This would allow the hikers to walk at their own pace, without worrying about catching the bus back.

D. **GOSA.** Sydney Van Zandt also received an award recognizing "Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut" from NRCS and USDA.

1. The Day hiking website continues to give the wrong directions for the hike on Lambtown Extension, and confusing Lambtown Road (of which there is one each in Ledyard and Groton). This results in Hikers showing up at the North gate instead of the south gate. The June 7th hike into the reservoir properties in Ledyard went well.

E. **Town Trails.**

1. The Sparkle Lake fishing, kayaking, and hiking event went well, with 17 signing up in advance. Volunteers helped with the fishing, and assisting people into the Kayaks on Birch Plain Creek. Groton Rotary recently did a cleanup along this road.
2. The PSA viewed last month is now on the Town Website, via the Parks and Recs Page.
3. There will be a meeting between the Town and MCA to discuss the alternate trail ending plans in July.
4. John Lincoln, who is the superintendent for both Bluff Point and Haley State parks, will be retiring this year.

A. **TriTown Trails. No report.**

VII. **Old Business.**

- A. **Trail Signs:** Bruce McDermott submitted a list of locations that would benefit from a Groton trail logo sign or a sign indicating the presence of a park. He noted that many of the parks or their signs are not easily noticed from the road.
- B. **Beebe Pond Trail Extension Project:** Mark Berry and Bruce McDermott hiked the proposed trail layout that was part of the CGA DIS course project. In the process, they found yet another trail, even nicer that has only one brook crossing and flows the ridge to the road opposite Town's End. Mark plans to open this trail up this fall and add it to the map.

VIII. New Business.

- A. It was brought up that there is a farm property between Beebe Pond and Pequot Woods. Should this property come up for sale or go through the development process, a potential greenway or trails should be considered in order to link the two existing parks.

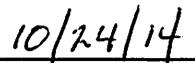
IX. Next meeting – July 24, 2014, 4 pm. Groton Senior Center.

- X. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn made by Bernie French, seconded by Joellen Anderson. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date