

# **Trails Coordinating Task Force**

Thursday, March 26, 2015

4 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

**I. Call to Order Mark Berry called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM**

**II. Attendance**

**Members in Attendance:** Mark Berry, Joellen Anderson, Debra Marshall-Baker, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Bea Reynolds, Joan Smith

**Alternates in Attendance – Sidney Van Zandt**

**Members Absent –** Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, June Evered, Bernie French, Carla Henschel, Deb Jones, Bruce McDermott, Brae Rafferty and Rick Steven.

**Guests in Attendance - None**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2015**

It was noted that Sidney Van Zandt working on maps comment was omitted. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Joan Smith, seconded by Joellen Anderson. Motion unanimously approved.

**V. Correspondence/Communication Avalonia - none.**

**VI. Reports**

**A. Avalonia**

The group is continuing to review 90 property titles. A successful pot luck was held with 80 in attendance last Saturday. Bruce Feldman spoke then and will come to the Groton Public Library on the day before Earth Day April 21 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Feldman is an independent naturalist who is an educator, writer and photographer. A dedication for the new Erisman property is scheduled for April 18.

**B. Copp Property**

There has not been much activity on the new trail construction due to the snow. The contractor has requested an extension until July 1 to complete the project.

**C. Cross Town Trail**

Sidney Van Zandt has 5 people on trails for June 6-7 weekend just from Town website alone. She is requesting a link on the Town's Parks and Recreation

website to sign up the National Trails weekend activities. The Cross Town hike will be held on Sat, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and two more hikes on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and 2 pm. Trails packet will be available soon.

**D. GOSA** ~~Joellen Anderson~~ <sup>JOAN SMITH</sup>

~~Joellen Anderson~~ spoke of the Clean-Up day on April 25, and two groups are committed already. She stated they will probably be taking out invasive species with extra people. Have done prep with pole saws so can use volunteers to remove it. GOSA is looking at sites at Bluff Point that have invasives (such as the entry triangle) as a way to use volunteers. Scott ~~Sally~~ <sup>DAWLEY</sup> is the contact person for State.

Catherine Kolnaski School Explorers Program has expanded to two groups, which meet on Thursdays after school to hike various trails. The kids use Ipads to take pictures. ~~Joellen~~ <sup>JOAN</sup> asked if the Town could do something like this to expand the program? She noted it is tough to do with just volunteers, and suggested a regular program with a paid programmer. Ben Loon does this at the school.

**E. Town Trails**

No work was done this winter. No further work will be done on the Trolley Trail. Deb Marshall Baker will send to Mark what contract restrictions were for the grant money.

**F. Tri-Town Trails**

There are 3 or 4 private property owners in Preston park areas who will receive a proposal for a one-time payment for an easement and an on-going tax abatement by the Town of Ledyard. A deed will include that the conservation easement will be used for trails.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

The group discussed holding a Trail Information Event, which could be held at the Senior Center perhaps this fall. Everyone's homework assignment had been to come with a list of names and contact information for folks and groups that might have info on trails, outdoors, boating, vendors, non-profits, and educators. The Senior Center does not yet have a walking group, but if they did, they could be a sponsor. One thought was to have members of these groups get together to plan. The group needs the key anchor groups first.

**A. Short and Long Term Goals**

The group started talking about goals at the last meeting and categorizing them? Four main items were identified when the committee was first started. The group reviewed 7 projects agreed on for the Master Trails so they can be prioritized.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Advocacy Projects**

We had talked about advocacy projects to get boys and girls clubs and summer camp program kids (with counselors (can train the counselors) onto the trails. Need volunteers to do that. Perhaps UConn Avery point is a source. Maybe GOSA?

Sidney mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Department turned 50 this year. She read a description of the department from 50 years ago, and commented on the amazing job on the expansion of Recreation in the Town. Thank You!

**B. Implementing Election of Secretary**

Debbie Marshall-Baker agreed to be the secretary.

Brae Rafferty doesn't get the email notifications.

There was a discussion about maps on the trails. <sup>JOELLEN</sup> ~~Joan~~ Smith mentioned that Norcross Foundation provides money for trail related projects, including signs with a trail map at each junction and at trail heads.


A suggestion to having the May meeting at the WPCF then walking out onto the Trolley Trail.

**IX. Next meeting – April 23, 2015, 4 pm Groton Senior Center**

**X. Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn at 5:04 was made by Joan Smith, second by Eric Morrison.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

4/23/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date