

# **Trails Coordinating Task Force**

Thursday, December 3, 2015

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order**  
4:05 PM
  
- II. **Attendance**
  - a. **Members in Attendance:** Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, Deb Jones, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Bea Reynolds
  
  - b. **Alternates in Attendance:** None
  
  - c. **Members Absent:** A. Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, June Evered, Bernie French, Carla Henschel, Bruce McDermott, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Brae Rafferty, Joan Smith, Rick Steven
  
  - d. **Guests in Attendance:** Matt Allen – Planner I
  
- III. **Citizen’s Petitions, Comments and Concerns**  
Mark – Parks and Recreation Commission has approved extension of Trails Coordination Task Force. Discussion was made regarding TCTF holding quarterly meetings, and they agreed quarterly make sense. Goes to Town Council next for approval of extension.
  
- IV. **Approval of Minutes – October 22, 2015**  
So moved by Joellen Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Jones, approved by all.
  
- V. **Correspondence/Communication**  
None
  
- VI. **Reports**
  - a. **Avalonia**  
Members of Avalonia are working long hours preparing their 90+ property files, baseline reports and management plans for Land Trust Alliance accreditation. Fall property boundary walks in Groton as well as in other Avalonia towns are ongoing. The Connecticut Land Conservation Conference group met in North Stonington on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. Avalonia hosted this winter gathering and various SE CT land trusts sent representatives. The CT Land

Conservation Conference has set March 19, 2016 as the date for their 2016 conference.

**b. Copp Property**

No more work will be taking place on property. Contractor used more fill than approved. First slope has no crown, will stay the same. Plus there is an erosion issue. Will probably be going to court. Will be ...spray painting old yellow blazes gray and replacing them with colored arrows to match trail colors on web site. Ribbon cutting – April 22, 2015.

**c. Cross Town Trail**

Joellen said that the Connecticut Trail Day Cross Town hike still draws 40+ participants. Mark indicated that because of Groton budget issues, the bridge proposal over McGuire Brook has been moved to FY 2018.

**d. GOSA**

No report – representative and alternate at a GOSA Board of Directors meeting held tonight.

**e. Town Trails**

June/September 2015 monthly web page reports 4-500 hits in August and September unique visits) October <200. Jenna in GIS created a mobile trail app that people can use on their phone.

We do have a \$25,000 matching grant, so if we get any money, it might happen earlier. Grants are the answers to postponed Town funding. This grant was approved in FY15. Have to spend some money within 3 years – by June 2017, then 2+ more years to spend it.

Grant request submitted to Norcross in the amount of \$2,300 for trails map. Foundation will review in January.

Town is picking up a piece of property on Briar Hill Road – backing up to YMCA and school property. YMCA will be transferred to DEEP. This will be a connection to another network of trails. Lily Lane – DPW taking out old siltation fences.

**f. TriTown Trails**

Bea Reynolds – Need easement from 9 Landowners. Have Landowner #2 & #7, but #1 is holding out. Have money for work, but need easement. 1 & 2 would give us 3 miles to connect two Town of Ledyard properties. Started a Twitter account, 800 hits in two months!

**VII. Unfinished Business**

- a. Trail Advocacy Event – Planning  
What to do? Who to do it?

Trail Advocacy Event would raise awareness of the trails of Groton. Work already done by the Task Force toward this goal includes:

1. Signs
2. Interactive trail map

Maybe do a fair or event – outdoor activities – trails. Can we tie into something already done.

Maybe tie into Fall Festival (140+ vendor booths), a couple thousand people attend, with a trails booth. Held in October – Columbus Day Weekend.

For Spring – any events in Groton or other towns. Consider coordinating something with NESS or Denison Pequotsepos

Walk with a Doc Attorneys working on agreement with Town. Town is a member of the Walk With A Doc Organization.

Senior Center received a Walk with Ease Grant program starts this spring at Poquonnock Plains Park.

Mark will keep us posted on the progress of all these items over the Winter.

**VIII. New Business**

None

- IX. Next meeting March 24, 2016, 4 pm Groton Senior Center

**X. Adjournment**

Deb Jones moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joellen Anderson. Passed  
5:02 PM

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

3/24/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date