

# **Trails Coordinating Task Force**

Thursday, March 24, 2016

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

## **I. Call to Order**

## **II. Attendance**

- a. **Members in Attendance:** Mark Berry, Denise Descheaneaux , Carla Henschel, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Brae Rafferty, Joan Smith,
- b. **Alternates in Attendance:** Sidney Van Zandt
- c. **Members Absent:** Joellen Anderson, A. Neil Brown, June Evered, Bernie French, Deb Jones, Bruce McDermott, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Bea Reynolds, Rick Steven, Kim Watson
- d. **Guests in Attendance:**

## **III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns**

None

## **IV. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2015**

Mark Berry moved to accept minutes, seconded by Carla Henschel

## **V. Correspondence/Communication**

None

## **VI. Reports**

- a. **Avalonia – Report emailed in by Joellen Anderson**  
Avalonia continues to post their property boundary lines as needed and review their office property files, etc. in preparation for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance organization.

Avalonia's trails in Groton are being monitored continually for blow downs or other trail issues and need to be addressed and appropriately managed.

Joellen prepared and participated in the Active Living Expo at the Senior Center event yesterday, March 23, 2016 with a display and a variety of handout materials that advocated for Groton Trails for the benefit of Groton's Parks & Recreation Department.

b. Copp Property

First phase of work was completed. Park Department reblazed the trails and put up 18 posts and directional arrows corresponding to blaze colors. Trail colors now match the website. Trails in the Farmstead area are marked. Some lead off property, were not blazed by Town. Trails outside of Farmstead will be marked next. Working with Jenna to make sure trail info on web matches what is out in the field. New Kiosk is in. Work with Kent & Frost to develop sign that will include trail maps, and old pictures of homestead. Try the Andy Haley family – his mom was a Copp.

c. Cross Town Trail

X Town Trail, not Cross, is actual name. Trail has had some physical issues with the trails behind the annex. Mark requested the Town Engineer to develop plans but school system has to approve it first. Recently sent an email to Mr. Bass, the principal at Cutler Middle School so we can get the bridge in.

Fish and Wildlife now working Candlewood Ridge/Avery Farm a lot of downed trees by clearing from Larchmont to parking area to Avery Farm to Lambtown Road in Ledyard. But does look terrible due to logging. Will look better in summer. 30 acres was logged.

Progress on Tilcon property. State will buy – GOSA has to raise a percentage of the price. Tilcon property could be part of “The Great Thicket” a national wildlife refuge.

Two bills in Legislature SA 36 (if state want to give or sell the property they need a local public hearing to close loop hole and HB5619

Conveyance and proposed swap Oral School, rescinded should look at Mystic River Park next to Oral School. Many years ago a trail was proposed – invasives in summer made trail impossible. Conservation Committee asked Commission for a trail system through Oral School to “Commons Center” project. Some trails are there. Mapping needs to be done. Time to get going on the proposed trail. Next meeting, a site visit.

d. GOSA

e. Town Trails

Work on Lily Lane – everything except paving is done

Parks and Recreation programs are hiking different trails during their lunches. There are "Join the Staff" hikes weekly. Have three dates for next summer camps. Need volunteers for June 23, 9am-12pm Pequot Woods. Mark will forward to everyone. July 7 9am- 12pm TBD; July 21, 9 am-12pm at Haley Farm.

f. TriTown Trails

Bea is not there. Got an email from Ledyard. Groton Utilities is asked the State for money. Groups would like conditioned on opening up watershed for public access.

VII. **Unfinished Business**

a. Trail Advocacy Event – Planning

Joellen and Mark were at Active Living Expo yesterday. Looking at doing same at the Fall Festival, GOSA, Tri-Town and Avalonia plan to attend.

VIII. **New Business**

a. National Trails Day

On Saturday, X-Town Trail starts at 9:30 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM – GOSA is leading Sheep Farm, at 9 AM, Northern Blue Trail on Avery Farm to Ledyard. Conservation Commission is at Copp Property.

b. Transportation Focus Group

On 30<sup>th</sup> of at Airport with SECT Enterprise region that looks a transportation, highways, rails, busses, bike paths.

c. Depot Road-Thomas Road

Kick off field meeting in April. Mark will send out date when he knows it.

IX. **Next meeting** June 23, 2016, 4 pm Groton Senior Center

X. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM. Mark made motion to adjourn.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
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Signature

6/27/16  
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Date