

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, June 23, 2016

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

4:00 PM

II. Attendance

a. Members in Attendance:

Joellen Anderson, June Evered, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Bruce McDermott, Bea Reynolds

b. Alternates in Attendance:

Sidney VanZandt

c. Members Absent:

Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, Bernie French, Carla Henschel, Matt Allen, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Brae Rafferty, Joan Smith, Rick Steven, Kim Watson

d. Guests in Attendance:

None

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

Questions:

Who is responsible for Water taxi?

Not Town of Groton Parks and Recreation

Thames River Heritage Park – City of Groton Item.

Willow Point, Noank – Noticed signs regarding a dog park on School Street at Essex on railroad tracks. Is this on conservation land or Town land?

Property does not belong to Town of Groton, Avalonia, or GOSA

Maybe for dogs at shipyard to relieve themselves?

Concerns:

In newspaper – possibility of trading land at Merritt for parcel on Drozdyk Dr. Discussion ensued.

2014 – \$34 million revolving fund for Groton Utilities water –GU needs to provide monitored passive recreation as part of grant (would be interesting ~~in~~ to find what regulations this organization calls monitored passive recreation.).

For Example, Aquarion – for its passive recreation uses– issue permits with maps. Has anyone looked at possibility of our trails? Avalonia own land that abuts Aquarion property in Stonington. You can hike on Avalonia land. Groton Utilities has done no publicizing has been done, but Cindy Morrison gets lots of hikes with seniors on Groton Utilities properties.

IV. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2016

Corrections offered by Sidney Van Zandt, which were incorporated into minutes. Bea Smith approved, Bruce McDermott Seconded. Unanimous vote.

V. Correspondence/Communication

None

VI. Reports

a. Avalonia

Joellen reported: Dennis Main is new president. First meeting for New Board was last night. Working on LTA Accreditation (Land Trust Alliance). Will be working through July with consultant and meetings. X-Town hike went well. Snacks were provided at Fishtown Road. 63 people attended. More snacks were provided at Beebe Pond. Great turnout. Joellen brought a poster board that she presented ~~earlier~~ – committee urged her to save it for next event. **AT THE ACTIVE AGING EVENT.**

Avalonia has 20 trail properties and all the maps are online.
On February 2, 1968, Avalonia was started – a 50th coming up!

b. Copp Property

Mark reported: Working on getting a nice sign to go under the front kiosk. Have color coded direction arrows (aluminum) on trail heads that now match the map. Still need to extend to uplands trails (not done yet). Homestead area is completely done for arrows.

Sidney - Copp is protecting the reservoirs area in '88 – part of reason it was purchased.

Bruce: Should there be signs directing people back to parking lot, etc. (directional signs). What about off leash dogs at Copp Property? No leash ordinance or state. Maybe change the sign.

c. X-Town Trail

In minutes, Mortimer Wright section

d. GOSA

Sidney reported: Remarked trails with blue. The trails show evidence of being used more. Perhaps cross country team are using them.

Sheep Farm Hike had 14 people – good hike. On the trail at Avery Farm – bad weather forecast, but went right and showed group the beaver problems, - and also the Eversource platforms maintain lines, then went up Lambtown Road Ext, and made it back to car in time before skies opened up.

Avery Farm & Candelwood Ridge – thousands of pick up sticks and plantings to make on the trail for grant requirements. Fire Department filled swimming pool to provide irrigation water. Avery Farm is complete. In future would like to include Ledyard in some of the mapping. Have the trail start at 184 and go up Lambtown and show the several crossings over Haley Brook.

Marie Olson led 11 people on Sheep Farm yesterday – went very well.

GOSA will be leading a day camper walk in July.

e. Town Trails

Mark reported: Started Walk with a Doc program – partnering with L&M Hospital. Doctor leads walk – a specific subject, the walk on Saturday is regarding Diabetes. Walk 2 miles (4 laps)

Programming people working at Parks and Recreation invite public to go on a walk with Parks and Recreation staff. Walks were marketed in Parks and Recreation Discover magazine. Next walk is in July.

Haley Farm on the 21st with Sidney & Joan. Bruce will also be doing a walk with camp kids.

f. TriTown Trails

Bea reported: Received verbal oks from lands owner to change conservation easement for wetlands. Proposal is to change trail to walking/hiking instead of allowing biking, too. No bikes (Clark brook and property). Found emergent wetlands, survey was done, wetlands permitting done. New tax abatements calculated. Hope to have 2 ½ - 3 miles of stakes next spring locating the trails for clearing.

VII. Unfinished Business

Sidney: Beebe Pond needs a walkway or bridge over the rock rubble that is now part of the path. It is a dangerous situation now.

VIII. New Business

Mystic River Park

On River Road – Mark hiked property with Deb Jones. Abutts Mystic Oral School. Town owns a portion and has approval from State to run trails. Mark asked State if we could use boat launch parking area for trail head ~~head~~. Plan is to have wetland survey done, then survey entire property, push rocks further from road to make parking, and then make trails.

Joellen suggestion: State boat launch – people using woods as a potty – no port-a-potties exist now – pointed it out to Ledge Light Health District as a problem.

IX. Next meeting September 22, 2016, 4 pm Groton Senior Center

X. Adjournment

At 5:17

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

9/22/16

Date