

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, September 22, 2016

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

- a. Members in Attendance: Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, A. Neil Brown, June Evered, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Bruce McDermott, Bea Reynolds Tom Jannke,
- b. Alternates in Attendance: Sidney VanZandt
- c. Members Absent: Denise Descheneaux, Carla Henschel, Matt Allen, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Brae Rafferty, Joan Smith
- d. Guests in Attendance:

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

None

IV. Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2016

Minutes were corrected. Presented posterboard at the active senior event. Joellen motioned to accept minutes Bruce seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Correspondence/Communication

VI. Reports

- a. Avalonia

Joellen – in general working on application for Land Trust Alliance. Doing a stewardship manual for October submission. Introduced a program called "Hike & Seek" on website to encourage people to explore various Avalonia properties.
- b. Copp Property

Neil – no update
Mark – wrap up large grant – working with Kent and Frost for sign under kiosk. Illustrations were passed around.
- c. X-Town Trail

Sidney – GOSA has gone through and checked most of the trails on their property after storm for trees down. Oak tree – It's a mast year for acorns, and using rakes or blowers would be helpful because the acorns are like ball bearings. Someone needs to look at Wright property trails for trees down.

d. GOSA

Sidney Van Zandt – moving forward on Tilcon Property with State. GOSA will be a cooperative manager with the State. Total cost \$785,000, GOSA portion \$117,750 of that amount. State the rest. Purchase not final yet. Passed out a GOSA funding drive with a map describing the open space to be purchased.

Joellen noted other organizations were not identified on the fundraising map.

Sidney – Happy to include other properties. Offered to meet with TNC and Avalonia and bring map up to date. This is the same program that was used to buy upper 5 acres of Haley Farms. Reviewing access and uses.

Have a meeting on Thursday, October 13, key note speaker is Dr. Herster Barres “Reforest the Tropics”.

e. Town Trails

All money received, State grant for Lilly Lane all done.

Hike by Joan Smith and Sidney on Haley Farm for children from summer camps. They loved the tunnel and rocks. We received thank you notes from many of them.

Bruce McDermott said he led lots of kids on the Merritt Family Forest.

f. TriTown Trails

Sent out a letter to two property owners on North end of trail. Have tacit approval on gaining access across property. Trail ended way up hill due to emergent wetlands. Sent updated letter and have not heard back from the two owners.

Trail will loop down into the Clark Farm property and end there. Still have some property owners refusing access. No response. Need to spend down funds and grant. There is \$1.2 million in recreation trails grant fund – will pursue funds from this program.

October 29 – Groton Utilities hike – blue trail – 10 AM on Sandy Hollow Road, Ledyard. Sponsored by TriTown through Ledyard Parks and Recreation and the Groton Senior Center – Tues., October 25 at 1 PM – will be announced in Facebook. Requested that info on trails be given to Mark or Cindy and they can get the word out. Groton Utilities does hikes through on National Trail day.

VII. Unfinished Business
Mystic River Park

Mark is still waiting to hear from State to see if we could use the Boat Launch as a trail head for Mystic River Park. The other trailhead site is further down River Road. Once Town has a surveyor lined up, wetlands and property survey can be done. In a past meeting a port-a-potty was discussed.

VIII. New Business

a. XTown Trail

Mark met with principal at Cutler Middle School, and said go ahead and build a bridge! Again, waiting for Town to hire a surveyor, then will look for funding.

In FYE'15, Grant matching money (\$25,000.00) was approved for applying for trail grants money.

b. Bikeway proposal – Depot Road to Thomas Drive

Have \$25,000 to work with consultant to come up with a plan for Bluff Point to Birch Plain Creek. – need rights of way from some owners.

There will be a public input process prior to developing a plan.

c. Meeting Schedule for 2017

Reminder we went to 4x a year in 2016. Is this okay? Had the 4th Thursday of each month, March, June, September and 1st Thursday of December.

Sidney – had an email from CT Foresters – all major equipment was stolen from storage.

IX. Next meeting December 1, 2016, 4 pm Groton Senior Center

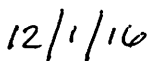
X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Neil Brown, seconded by Sidney. Approve Unanimously. Adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date