

Trails Coordinating Task Force

Thursday, March 23, 2017

4:00 PM Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Called to Order at 4:05 PM by Mark Berry

II. Attendance

a. Members in Attendance: Matt Allen (arrived 4:50 pm), Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, June Evered, Carla Henschel, Debralyn Marshall-Baker, Brae Rafferty

b. Alternates in Attendance: Sidney Van Zandt

c. Members Absent: A. Neil Brown, Denise Descheneaux, Bruce McDermott, Eric Morrison, Gail Munn, Bea Reynolds, Joan Smith, Tom Jannke

d. Guests in Attendance:

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

IV. Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2016

Joellen moved to accept the minutes, Carla seconded. Unanimously approved.

V. Correspondence/Communication

Joellen heard that Heather Somers put forward a bill to take 10 Acres out of Oral School property for development. Where does this 10 come out of? DEEP's 70, remainder? Joellen will look into it more

VI. Reports

a. Avalonia

Joellen – on February 22, 2017, Avalonia received National recognition as being accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Avalonia "is joining a network of only 372 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to profession excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in their work."

Upcoming Events:

"Winter Gathering" on March 10 in Mystic – Edible Wild Plants in and around Southeastern CT presented by Russ Cohen

Trails display at Library in Town and with Groton Open Space on April 10. Hike and Seek presentation at Library in late afternoon for parents and children.

April 22, 10 AM – Avalonia has new project at the Benedict Benson Preserve Dedication in North Stonington, Join for a guided walk of the Preserve located on S. Swantown Road, North Stonington off Route 2 next to Stonington Institute.

b. Copp Property

Mark – Town applied for State Recreation Trails Grant \$100,000. No answer yet. Would continue from Bridge – on away and one toward parking lot. All permitting done. Had \$6-7,800 left and State had the Town spend it down. – doing a spur trail over to the events field.

Trails Day – June 3 – Conservation Commission looking at an additional walk on top of property – hoping for trails to be blazed on to hill.

Sign on the kiosk has been delivered and should be going up in the next couple of weeks.

c. X-Town Trail

Town is still in process of trying to hire surveyor. Bridge work needs wetlands surveyed. There will be a Trails Day hike of X-Town trails on June 3 around 10 AM. Parks and Recreation will provide a bus from Towns End. Need hike leaders. Will have to by-pass “bridge”.

d. GOSA

There is a bar across the stairs going onto the Noank town dock. There was some damage to some planks following winter storms. That little beach and dock is so incredibly busy all summer. I saw the Mayor and his son there this fall while his son was catching crabs. There is certainly the ability to replace the few damaged planks fairly quickly so that the dock can be used without much delay.

Jenna has redone our trails on the northern Avery Farm. Our plans are in force for the trails weekend on June 3 for the X-Town Trail in partnership with Avalonia Land Conservancy and Parks and Recreation for providing buses to return to Bluff Point parking. Hikes on Sunday June 4 will be at 10 AM at the Sheep Farm and in the afternoon at 2PM at the Avery Farm north.

We are still waiting for the final State announcement about the Tilcon property. GOSA's 15% portion has been given, and the State has signed with Tilcon. We are waiting signing by the AG office and then Commissioner Klee. "Soon" is what we continue to go on.

GOSA is busy at work with their annual Gala to be held at the Marriott, Groton on Thursday, April 27. The big celebration is GOSA's 50 anniversary of our original beginning to "Save the Haley Farm".

e. **Town Trails**

Mystic River Park – waiting for surveyor to get land and wetland survey to design parking lot. Still waiting for State to make decision on if we can use boat launch parking at trails end.

Park staff clearing trails at Pequot Wood and Beebe Pond. Someone from the Pequot Woods Board of Trustees walks the woods once a month and reports back to Parks for maintenance. Will suggest same for Copp Board. Keeps everyone engaged. Joellen reports some blow downs from 2-3 weeks ago going in from Judson. If you go in from 215, across from the dam, some have mentioned that it could stand new blazes.

f. **TriTown Trails**

No Report.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. **Bikeway proposal – Depot Road to Thomas Drive**

Mark has a draft proposal for bike amenities along this particular stretch of road, widening boardwalk, restriping roads.

Will be a survey on Facebook, send out by bike shops on what they want to see, and put prioritization on trails/road striping.

VIII. New Business

Joellen heard a DEEP employee say – Judge has signed off and awarded the Gungywamp property to the State. (was owned partly by Mystic YMCA).

June has question if anyone from the City of Groton interested in Trails Task Force. Only trail is at Birch Plain.

IX. Next meeting June 22, 2017 - 4 pm Groton Senior Center

X. Adjournment

5:10 PM – Carla motioned to adjourn, seconded by Brae. Unanimously approved.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

6/23/17

Date