

# **Trails Coordinating Task Force**

Thursday,  
December 7, 2017  
Groton Senior Center  
Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.
- II. **Roll Call**
  - a. **Members in Attendance:** Joellen Anderson, Mark Berry, June Evered, Carla Henschel, Denise Decheneaux, Brea Rafferty.
- III. **Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns.** None
- IV. **Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2017.**
  - a. **Motion to approve these minutes made by Brea Rafferty, seconded by Carla Henschel. The minutes were approved unanimously.**
- V. **Correspondence/Communication.** None.
- VI. **Reports:**
  - a. **Avalonia – Joellen.**

The anniversary of Avalonia Land Conservancy's 50<sup>th</sup> organizational incorporation date is February 21, 2018. A public celebration event will be held at the Mystic Aquarium from on that date from 5-7:00pm with DEEP Commissioner Klee speaking.

Dr. Julianna Barrett received a Long Island Sound Futures fund grant for \$55,000.00 to create a hybrid living shoreline at Avalonia's Dodge Paddock Preserve in Stonington.

Mark Starr spoke about Native American stonework at GOSA's annual meeting in October and led trips to one location where they can be observed on Avalonia's Tefftweald Preserve in North Stonington.

Avalonia is participating in a New England initiative to identify their properties.

A public bird banding program was held on Avalonia's Knox Preserve in Stonington on October 22, 2017. Bob DeWire, the retired owner of NatureScapes continues to hold appropriate licenses for capturing, collecting and recording specific specie data.

Avalonia's hiking trails in Groton experienced multiple blowdowns during the recent wind storm. All have been cleared.

Avalonia recently submitted what is known as quadrennial information to all town assessors where they hold tax exempt property. (Due every 4 years by November 1)

**b. Copp Property – Mark.**

~~BRAE~~ Brea asked about the trail project in the upland area. Work remaining includes digging holes for wooden posts at the trail heads and posting colored arrows to indicate the trails. This task is suitable for a Boy Scout wishing to earn his Eagle.

**c. Cross Town Trail – Mark.**

Exciting news. One of the engineers has developed a plan for the bridge behind the Cutler Middle School. This bridge is part of the Cross Town Trail. The design used is from the U.S. Forest Service. This is a shovel project ready and thus more attractive for grants. Discussion ensued on the bridge details. The bridge is expected to be at least 30 feet long and approximately 5 feet wide. The stream has water on both sides so 2 feet need to be allowed for this on both sides of the bridge. The anticipated cost of materials for the bridge is \$18,000, but the planning costs may be around \$17,000 because of the difficult terrain.

Mark will bring the plans for the bridge to our March 15, 2018 meeting.

**d. GOSA. No representative present.**

**e. Town Trails – Mark.**

A study has been done to develop a bike path from Depot Road to Thomas Road to make a trails network. Consultants looked at options to make trail connections along the roads. This study was presented to the Town Council. The recommendation was made to restripe the roads to make bicycle lanes as the cost of building something from scratch would be too expensive. Also, local residents along South Road were very vocal about proposing off road bike lanes that would be only 3 feet from their homes.

The proposal for Thomas Road is to push the pavement out to 2 feet on either side and add stripes. The roads are wide enough to have a bike lane on one side. Money for other trails identified in a previous Trails Task Force meeting is included in the proposed CIP. **TriTown Trails.** No representative present.

VII. **Unfinished Business.** None.

VIII. **New Business.** June Evered was appointed as Secretary.

IX. **Meeting Schedule for 2018.**

All meetings are on a Thursday and will be held at 4pm at the Groton Senior Center.

Dates of meetings:      March 15, 2018  
   June 21, 2018  
   September 20, 2018  
   December 6, 2018

X. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn made by Denise Decheneaux, seconded by Brae Rafferty. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

June G. Evered  
Signature

3/19/2018  
Date