

Harwich Trails Committee Minutes

November 19, 2015

Present: D. Callaghan, M. Cushing, J. Follas, B. Nightingale, R. Saulnier, G. Schumann, W. Stone

Absent: C. Berg, A. Peterson

- I. Matt Cushing called the meeting to order at 3:45 in the library at town hall.
- II. Minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting were accepted as corrected.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Stewardship of town conservation land trails and trailheads
 1. Island Pond: Matt reported no vandalism, trail repairs, trash. Hunting Season signs have been posted.
 2. Bell's Neck: Wayne continues to put out trash bags and carry them away. We need to find a way to fund the purchase of some permanent, indestructible trash containers such as the ones located in some of the town parks. They are expensive. Discussion about finding someone to make them if we can find funding for materials. Suggested CC Tech. Gerie suggested asking the garden club for one for Thompson's Field, Chatham Rd. The GCOH has an interest there but will not donate to other conservations areas. Perhaps we could look for sponsors who would have their names on containers. Or maybe the town could give us a budget! Dave questioned the notion that town committees were entitled to an annual \$300 in order to exist! Gerie to look into old minutes for any record of TC account #. Wayne also brought up the subject of the condition of the bogs off Depot Street. Conservation agent is aware that the current lessee has been negligent re: maintenance of those bogs. Yet again, the lack of a conservation commission representative on this committee. Ron announced that the "Closed at Sunset" signs would be posted this week. The plan is to see if signage alone curtails night visitors or if the gate will have to be closed.
 3. Thompson's Field: The new parking lot entrance/exit on Chatham Road has been completed including split rail fencing and it is a great improvement! Thank you, Amy and DPW! The garden club is working with the highway department to further enhance the appearance of the area between the road and the lot. More later. Plans are in the works for installing a water source at the 39 lot which should divert some of the current dog walkers from the popular Chatham Rd. lot. A public meeting regarding the request for CPC funding for two fenced in dog areas at the 39 location was well attended and, as expected, the opposition from dog walkers to leash dogs on town conservation land except in proposed fenced in areas at TF was loud and clear. The trail committee has not yet taken a position on the matter. Opinions are divided, but TC understands some compromise needs to be found. The proposal got a lot of press and dissent.
 4. Texiera: John spoke to Link Hooper regarding his son's Eagle Scout plan to build a new kiosk for Texiera. Bruce to follow up with Link. The current kiosk is on its last legs. Seems the scout is willing and the project must be done by May 1, but funding

must be found and we still cannot locate whatever money we thought we had. (We could use some intervention from the selectmen regarding answers to any existing funds we have.) Also, the field and grassy area around the parking lot have been mowed and the place looks good, except for the sad kiosk! TC needs to clean out underbrush in the picnic table island to make it more inviting. Tread on steps need fill. Hikers are detouring to left on private property to avoid the stair trail.

5. Sand Pond: Hunting signs posted. Trails in good shape. Last crossroad signage on trail to parking lot still confusing to some walkers.

IV. New Business

- A. Member terms: some expiring in June. Need to seek new members, especially with reps conservation and planning. Gerie passed around applications.
- B. Meeting time: need to address our meeting time; seems current members do not advocate change of time. Most do not favor evening meeting.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 5:00.

VI. Next meeting: December 17 at 3:45 in the library at town hall.

Gerie Schumann, Clerk