

Harwich trails Committee Minutes
April 20, 2017

Present: M.Cushing, D. Callaghan, E. Dubuque, G. Schumann, W. Stone, J. Walpole, A.Usowski

Excused: J. Follas, R. Rich, R. Saulnier

Absent: J. Brown, A. Peterson

I. Minutes of March 15, 2017 approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS ..STEWARDSHIP

A. Island Pond: Matt and Jay

Matt spent \$55 on new trail sign supply. He will be reimbursed from our gift account. (See New Business). Jay noted evidence of an old campfire off Uncle Harry's Way, north of the bike path. Also there is a teepee structure IN THE vicinity. Amy will look into the teepee! Matt will see to placing new signage where necessary.

B. Bell's Neck: Wayne

Lots of limbs to clear. Ron has been helping. Amy noted there is a resident who has town permission to take firewood from our piles. More rocks need to be piled by BN Rd. Bridge turnout. Nip litter is rampant. There is a petition at Luke's for putting return deposit on nips. gerie to get a copy for our file.

Plastic trash bags are being ripped apart by critters. Wayne continues to be concerned about the condition of the town owned bogs west of the herring run. Amy reported that there are some interested responsible growers and that a possible shorter lease would postpone any restoration plans for a time when Conservation could devote the time to resolving then issue. Meanwhile, we should not interfere with water levels, nets and screens.

C. Thompson's Field: Amy and Gerie

Recently scheduled brush burn was halted when the blaze quickly became too hot to extinguish in spite of all the care that was taken by the authorities. The blaze was quickly put out by HFD, leaving about a quarter acre scorched. No new date set to finish burning the piles. It will be interesting to observe rapid plant growth where fire occurred! This precipitated a discussion about smoking on town conservation land. It was agreed that CC should post adequate signage prohibiting smoking throughout.

D. Sand Pond: Ron Rich was unable to report due to recent surgery. He is fine!
Still need a trail guide box. Neighbor continues to monitor the parking lot.

E. Teixeira: Liz

Trails and area are regularly inspected and no big issues. Old iron bed frame still there and Liz continues to keep the parking area and adjacent QA Rd. Approach free of litter. Gerie still needs a key for the new kiosk and we need a trail guide box installed.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Treasury: Amy followed up our request for funding. we have \$195 remaining in our "gift" account which CAN be rolled over after July 1st. In addition Amy spoke with both the Town Administrator and the Accountant who said they had put \$2500 in the Conservation budget which should enable us to do something about surveillance cameras and trash containers. Meanwhile Gerie is su[[lying Wayne with bags from the DPW.

B. Matt introduced the idea of naming key trails for easier identification and more interest. we agreed it was a fine idea. please the. You are out monitoring your areas, be thinking about appropriate names! i.e... Inkberry Trail, Marshview, etc.

C. Amy mentioned that Robbins Pond area has yet to have a comprehensive management plan such s exists for BN, IP, and TF.

D. No decision s regarding geo-caching.

Next meeting May 18th at town hall unless otherwise announced. Gerie will be absent. Please assign someone to take the minutes. That you.

Note: Matt and Gerie have both emailed Jannell Brown with our unanimous opinion that the trail and bikeways committees merger is not a good plan.

Gerie Schumann, Clerk