

Town of Harwich Trail Committee Minutes

May 19, 2016

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

Absent: B. Nightingale, A. Peterson, R. Sarantis, A. Usowski

- I. Matt Cushing called the meeting to order at 3:45 in the library at town hall.
- II. Minutes of site meetings in March and April were approved as corrected.
- III. Old Business- Stewardship
 - A. Island Pond: All is well except some additional trail signage needed in the area just west of the bike path. Additional signs will be blue, not the red we have been using. Because of the erosion at the beginning of the trail at QA Rd kiosk, foot traffic will be directed to the trail to the left of the kiosk and the one on the right will be blocked off.
 - B. Bell's Neck: Wayne has been managing the water in the bogs to keep them from further harm. Amy is submitting paperwork for a survey of the bogs' future. (Amy, please correct me on this...not sure I have it right!) Wayne continues to collect and replace the trash bags and wishes they could be stronger quality and that people would not discard food in them because the animals tear open the bags. Discussion continues on how we could afford to obtain some decent trash receptacles! Surveillance cameras still needed.
 - C. Sand Pond: John reports trails in good shape. Some fallen dead wood could be fire hazard.
 - D. TF: DPW promptly filled the eroded trails near the sand pit, making them safer and neater. Thank you. The area between the Chatham Rd parking lot and Chatham Rd is a cooperative work in progress. The Garden Club of Harwich has purchased over a thousand dollars' worth of native plants to create a well-planned native landscape which will remain low and not obscure the vista of the fields to the east. The club has worked closely with conservation, DPW and the water department .as well as interested citizens and neighbors. The water source used by dog owners has been moved to the other side of the lot.
 - E. Texeira: A motion was made and approved to close the lower trail ASAP. We would like Amy to put in a request to DPW for two split rail sections to close of the trail at each end. TC will finish clearing the detour/connecting trail. Signage needed indicating new route. TC also is committed to tidying the picnic table area.

Wayne made a motion that TC send a letter to the Chronicle thanking Ameri-Corps, DPW, Harwich Garden Club, Water Department, HCT and conservation agent, Amy Usowski for their collaborative efforts to improve the trailheads and trails in Harwich. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

- A. Our account: Seems we have \$250 in our gift account. A motion was made and approved to transfer the entire sum to the Eagle Scout, our contribution to the materials necessary to build a new kiosk for Texeira. We anticipate this project to be completed this summer.

- B. Budget: A motion was made and approved to prepare an itemized list of our needs and submit a budget request for funding for this committee. A portion of this money will go toward the printing of the next edition of the trail guides which include both town and Trust conservation lands. Other expenses include routine maintenance signs, possible surveillance camera, trash bags, etc. Please make notes and be prepared to complete a itemized budget at our next meeting. Thanks.
- C. New members: Chet Berg, Bruce Nightingale and Alan Peterson have completed their terms. We need to discuss the make-up of our committee as well as the meeting time if we are going to attract new members. We also want to convey our appreciation for these members' time and service to the town.
- D. Hall property plans: HCT is moving along with the paperwork and plans to complete the trail over the Hall property. The DCR has signed off. The highway department is planning to remove the anchor fence, flatten the bluff and remove the concrete structures. Ron thought the trail should be closer to the water to maximize the enjoyment of the views. He and Wayne were planning to walk the property the next day and look at the possibilities. If there are any changes, they should be considered ASAP because the map will be included in the next edition of the trail guide, scheduled to be completed this summer.
- E. Next meeting June 16 at 3:45 in the library at town hall.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.
Gerie Schumann, Clerk

*approved
6/16/16*