

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Board of Selectmen
The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee

Susan Esty
Chris Cryder
Kathleen Connolly
Joe Nochera

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Judy Preston
Liz Swenson
Tom ODell
Kacey Constable

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2017
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
PARKS & RECREATION CENTER
308 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ray Allen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Chris Cryder
Judy Preston
Kacey Constable
Susan Esty
Liz Swenson (arrived at 6:34 p.m.)

Members Absent

Joe Nochera
Kathy Connolly
Tom ODell

Town Hall Staff Present

Ray Allen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Sandy Prisloe, Environmental Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Preserve Ad-Hoc Committee Special Meeting of December 15, 2016 as presented. **MADE** by S. Esty, **SECONDED** by C. Cryder; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, K. Constable, C. Cryder, L. Swenson, S. Esty; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

IV. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Robert Nussbaum from the Essex Land Trust was in attendance as was Robert Lorenz from the Old Saybrook Land Trust.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mission Statement

R. Allen distributed the email input from all Committee members for the mission statement. C. Cryder, S. Esty, K. Connolly and R. Allen all contributed their draft mission statements for Committee review. C. Cryder suggested a mission statement and a vision statement be drafted. The mission statement can be used to guide the Request for Proposal (RFP) in terms of presenting what the Committee wants to see as goals for The Preserve. The Committee needs to come to some consensus about active versus passive recreation, hunting, etc. According to the State, the RFP needs more “quantifiable deliverables” which the mission statement can help delineate.

The RFP required an inventory of trees on the property including type, species, diameter, which trees are suitable for harvest, etc., to guide a Forest Stewardship Plan.

C. Cryder offered to synthesize all of the draft mission statements once they are all received from all Committee members and put them into one mission statement which can then be presented to the Committee at the Preserve Ad Hoc Committee’s February meeting. He suggested each Committee member submit a list with their top 10 priorities for The Preserve.

Committee members requested more clarification from Will Hochholzer, Forestry Supervisor, DEEP Forestry, regarding the RFP. R. Allen said he will contact him and report back to the Committee.

B. Update on Interim Trails

C. Cryder said he met with and will be working with Eagle Scout candidate Matt Alsante. M. Alsante will put together a proposal for wayfinding signs for key intersections on the Blue Trail. He has defined his scope as major intersections of the Blue Trail. If he has additional time, he may consider kiosks.

C. Cryder said there are new trails in addition to the existing interim trails possibly made by mountain bikers. He said the new trails were cleared of leaves using blowers. He is going to try to organize work parties to reclaim those trails. C. Cryder said the mountain bikers were very gracious when he spoke with them.

When the Route 153 project is done, it needs to be connected to the Yellow Trail system, and maps will need to be updated.

C. Committee Updates

show options for sign design and color. She asked that at an upcoming meeting, the Committee can discuss where directional signs to The Preserve could be placed.

D. Parking Lot Updates

R. Allen reported that the State will begin the Westbrook parking lot work in early spring. There is a new kiosk being built as well. There is nothing new to report on the Ingham Hill parking area in Old Saybrook.

S. Prisloe added that regarding the Westbrook parking lot, the parking design has to be changed slightly to fit the actual space. There is a well casing that sticks up in the parking lot. They need to find out if the pipe belonged to a domestic well at some time. If it was a domestic well, it needs to be officially and properly "abandoned". The well wasn't exposed until all of the trees were cut on the parking lot property.

S. Prisloe contacted Tom Nosal, Civil Engineer, PE, GPS Mapping Specialist, CT DEEP, regarding the GPS mapping of the trails. T. Nosal will try to make time to capture the information of type and condition of trails this coming spring or summer.

E. Any Other Old Business

J. Preston said she'll have more to report regarding the Botanical Survey at the February meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Winter Weed Treatment

K. Connolly was not present at tonight's meeting, but she had sent an email to Committee members in which she suggested a winter weed treatment be done at the bog. The area to be treated would include the site that was already treated in the fall in addition to a new area that needs to be treated. R. Allen gave K. Connolly permission to submit the request for funds for the weed treatment.

B. Any Other New Business

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting of The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee will be on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, 308 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathleen King, Recording Clerk