
BOS Preserve Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 2/22/2018

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

Susan Esty
Chris Cryder
Kathleen Connolly

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Judy Preston
Liz Swenson
Tom ODell
Kacey Constable

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, February 22, 2018
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 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Chris Cryder
Judy Preston
Kathy Connolly
Susan Esty
Kacey Constable

Members Absent

Tom ODell
Liz Swenson

Town Hall Staff Present

Ray Allen, Director of Parks and Recreation
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 January 25, 2018 as presented. **MADE** by S. Esty; **SECONDED** by C. Cryder; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, S. Esty, K. Constable, K. Connolly, C. Cryder; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

IV. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Robert Lorenz from the Old Saybrook Land Trust was present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Interim Trails

R. Allen said he and C. Cryder talked about ordering trail light markers in white, yellow and red. They will be ordered tomorrow, and C. Cryder said he will put them up per order of the State.

Boy Scout Troop 51 plans a camp out at The Preserve in March.

The request for the National Diversity Data Base (NDDB) assessment needs to get submitted to the State to repair the trail on the north side of the bog where it's very wet. R. Allen will be submitting it to Carl Fortuna, First Selectman and member of the two-person Cooperative Management Committee, after the contact information is corrected to show his name and address at the Parks and Recreation building.

The Eagle Scout who did the kiosk wayfaring signs for the eastern side of the blue trail system will be recognized and receive his Eagle Scout award this weekend. There is currently no Eagle Scout candidate for the western wayfaring kiosk signs on the blue trail system.

B. Update on Winter Weed Treatment

K. Connolly said she'd like to plan a weed whacking and stick pickup at The Preserve on March 17 or 18. She explained the process by which the "scalping", if done this time, of year weakens the weeds.

C. RFP (Request for Proposal) Update

R. Allen said the closing date of the RFP is the end of the business day on Monday, February 26th. He said he doesn't know the opening date for the bids.

D. Map Update

C. Cryder said there is nothing new to report at this time.

There was discussion about sign size and procedure/protocol standards especially for crediting donors for Eagle Scout projects. K. Connolly said Alex Sokolov from the State has that. R. Allen will ask him for it.

E. Committee Updates

J. Preston is leading a Preserve walk on Sunday, June 3rd for CT Trails Day weekend. Time is to be determined.

F. Any Other Old Business

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Updates of Committee requests

J. Preston and K. Constable are doing more research into all that's required to host a Bio-Blitz.

R. Allen asked C. Fortuna if there was any progress in the review and updates of the requests in the letter that this Committee submitted to the CMC. R. Allen didn't have any new information to share. He doesn't know when the CMC meeting is going to be held.

B. Any Other New Business

J. Preston assembled the responses of this Committee when asked for their top three to five priorities that they would like to see this Committee focus on in the next year or two, in order of importance, with a brief description. She distributed the results with each person's name listed with their responses, and J. Preston sorted them into categories. Committee members would like to review their mission statement in relationship to this compiled list.

J. Preston came up with the following categories based on what was mentioned the most: plan, trails, steward, steward position, financial plan, inventory, outreach and education. The biggest hits were for the plan, the trails and for education.

K. Connolly suggested teasing apart the concepts from the actions. She said if it was narrowed down, that would provide more of a consensus because everyone seemed to say a lot of the same things differently. She said it's important to keep the uses harmonious with the health of the forest. She feels the health of the land is the priority.

There was discussion about what money this Committee has to use and what the process is for accessing those funds. R. Allen said he will look into that and follow up for the next BOS Preserve Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

R. Allen asked Committee members to review the mission statement which K. King emailed to them and to look at it in relationship to the lists that J. Preston compiled.

Committee members discussed the balance between maintaining the health of the land and getting the public to be aware of why this land is so valuable through education and outreach.

J. Preston received a progress report from Bill Moorhead about his findings that she shared with Committee members.

C. Cryder suggested that R. Allen ask the CMC what their expectations are for this committee in terms of next steps.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting of The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee will be on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, 308 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk