

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Board of Selectmen

Susan Esty
Chris Cryder
Kathleen Connolly

The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee

308 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741
Telephone (860) 395-3152 • FAX (860) 395-3154

Judy Preston
Liz Swenson
Tom ODell
Kacey Constable

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 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 6:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Chris Cryder
Judy Preston
Kathy Connolly
Kacey Constable
Susan Esty

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 March 23, 2017 as presented. **MADE** by S. Esty; **SECONDED** by C. Cryder; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, K. Connolly, K. Constable, C. Cryder, 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 Honor Lawler from the Trust for Public Land.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Interim Trails

There were 4 hikers at the Earth Day hike led by C. Cryder. Clarkson University Alumni walked with C. Cryder this past Saturday to put trails “to rest” on the Blue Loop. He was contacted by some mountain bikers who feel slighted by the hikers. There are many trails that have been blazed by mountain bikers that have been covered over. He asked for volunteers to help reclaim the trails, and he suggested we invite the mountain bikers to a future Preserve Ad Hoc Committee Meeting to facilitate a collaborative trail planning process.

Eagle Scout candidate Matt Alsante was able to get some supplies such as plexi-glass and lumber donated. He would like to put something on the structure acknowledging the local business donors.

There is nothing new to report regarding the Route 153 parking lot or the Ingham Hill parking lot.

K. Connolly mentioned Peter Jensen who is a trail designer and trail builder. She asked the Committee if he could be invited for a consult to look at some “smaller fixes” for the trails. She offered to contact him to find out how much he would charge for a consult. Committee members agreed this would be a good idea.

There will be a Preserve hike from the Route 153 entrance area on CT Trails’ Day which is Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

B. Update on Winter Weed Treatment

K. Connolly reported that the invasive Japanese Barberry in the treated area is well controlled, in the untreated area, it is still present. The Japanese Honeysuckle is showing a lot of resistance. She has been shopping for custom seed mixes for native grasses. To plant grass on a half-acre that is truly full sun, and an acre and a half which is part sun, it will cost roughly \$350.00. She would like to get CT Native eco-types and seed after the next treatment, which would be approximately mid to later May.

J. Preston asked about planting shrubs because the area wasn’t originally a grass land. K. Connolly said the area was originally a potato field, and both agreed that planting native grasses would be a good place to begin.

H. Lawler said she supports planting the CT Native grasses in the area.

C. Committee Updates

There were no committee updates.

D. Any Other Old Business

J. Preston distributed a proposal from William H. Moorhead, III, Consulting Botanist/Plant Community Ecologist from Litchfield entitled, "Baseline Survey and Inventory of the Rare Plants, Critical Habitats, and Significant Natural Communities of The Preserve, Old Saybrook, Essex and Westbrook, CT."

The proposal includes purpose, products, specifications, schedule of work and product delivery and fee, terms and conditions. Attached are responses regarding the Trust for Public Land Preserve Stewardship Grant Fund and how this work fits in with eligibility and requirements.

J. Preston suggested a slight change in the payment schedule from what was submitted. The Committee also wanted to request 3 hard copies and 1 PDF as part of the product.

R. Allen asked that W. Moorhead to submit a bill, and R. Allen can have it processed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Goals and Public Usage of The Preserve

R. Allen distributed copies of the Committee and Issues & Public Participation Survey that was created by C. Cryder and completed by five people on this Ad Hoc Committee. The purpose of this survey is to collect more information for the Request for Proposal (RFP). The Trust for Public Land is willing to fund the RFP and will be part of the oversight of the bid process.

H. Lawler said there is language in the RFP that can be updated so there will be specific changes that can be suggested to the CMC Committee before the RFP goes out to bid again. If the botanical inventory is being done by W. Moorehead, the RFP won't need to be as comprehensive. There was discussion about putting a survey out to the public, who would be asked to fill it out, how the questions would be phrased, and if the public use assessment survey would be done by the professionals who are awarded the bid. There was also lengthy discussion about consideration of whether or not hunting will be allowed in The Preserve and the public's interest in that, Town Ordinances, etc.

R. Allen will email the RFP to this Ad Hoc Committee again so they can re-read it and make suggestions and recommendations to R. Allen which can then be forwarded to William Hochholzer, Forestry Supervisor, DEEP Forestry.

B. Any Other New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting of The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee will be on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, 308 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk