

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Board of Selectmen

Susan Esty
Chris Cryder
Kathleen Connolly

The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee

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Telephone (860) 395-3152 • FAX (860) 395-3154

Judy Preston
Liz Swenson
Tom O'Dell
Kacey Constable

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, November 30th, 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
Susan Esty
Kacey Constable

Members Absent

Tom O'Dell
Kathy Connolly
Liz Swenson

Town Hall Staff Present

Ray Allen, Director of Parks and Recreation

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Preserve Ad-Hoc Committee Special Meeting of Oct 26th, 2017 as presented. **MADE** by S. Esty; **SECONDED** by C Cryder; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, S. Esty, K. Constable, C. Cryder; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

IV. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Robert Nussbaum from the Essex Land Trust was in attendance as well as Ben Collins, a trail consultant from The Trail Building Company.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Interim Trails

C. Cryder said he has connected the yellow trail from the parking lot area in Westbrook on Rt153 to the exiting yellow trail in the Preserve.

C, Cryder also stated that he is actively looking for an Eagle scout to continue the way finding signs project that already exist, and to have these signs placed in the West side on the preserve.

B. Update on Winter Weed Treatment

Seed had been ordered from the Ernst Seed Company. This seed will be broadcast out on the area that was previously cut. The broadcasting will take place on Sunday Dec 3rd at 1:00PM. And lead by Kathy Connolly

C. RFP (Request for Proposal) Update

No Update on RFP from Honor Lawler from TPL, C. Cryder stated he will contact Honor to try to get the process moving again.

D. Committee Updates - No Updates

E. Any Other Old Business

S. Esty apologized to the committee. She stated she was working on a letter to the CMC committee that was asking about the Hunting assessment, exiting well pipes in the preserve, silt fencing, bridges that need fixing, CMC meeting notification, and CMC meeting minutes. She will be working on this letter and have it complete before next Ad-Hoc committee meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible Trail Improvements

Ben Collins a trail consultant that has been currently working with the Essex land trust on various projects gave a presentation to the committee. R. Allen and K Connolly meet with Ben in July and asked Ben to walk the interim trails and make a proposal on 5 different hazard spots in the interim trail system that we feel need to be addressed to keep the trails safe to the public. One specific spot is on the red trail, directly southeast of the bog area. This area is continually flooded out from the water level in the bog due to beaver activity in the bog. B. Collins solution to this problem is to move approximating 90 feet of the existing red trail using the existing surroundings to avoid the flooded bog. This would elevate the tread way to allow safe passage around flooded area. The existing trail would be blocked off with natural surroundings. Project cost would be \$1,300.00 and take approximately 20 hours of labor to complete.

MOTION to recommend to the CMC, to approve Ben Collins to re-route the existing red trail on the southeast edge of the bog 10 – 15 feet south, to elevate the tread way above the flooded area to allow for continued use around the current location. **MADE** by S. Esty; **SECONDED** by J Preston; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, S. Esty, K. Constable, C. Cryder; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

B. Latest Map Update

Lindsay Withers from TPL emailed a copy of an updated map of the preserve that shows the Yellow trail being extended to the parking lot area in Westbrook on RT. 153. This map also includes updated GPS info from the State of Connecticut She had asked for the group to look at and make any recommendations.

Ad-hoc committee recommended simply rules be stated on the back of map. Overall Map looks great and the group would like to put it in circulation

C. Any other new business

J. Preston reported that the Wetlands and Wildlands website shows many points of interest and open space in New England. The latest map that the group has circulated out, points out the “1,000 acre forest” located in Connecticut.

K Constable reported that she is very interested in doing an exploratory study on the possibility of bringing bio blitzes to the preserve. These bio blitzes provide valuable information and some limited costs. She would like the group to allow her to look into the possibility of these bio blitzes.

MOTION that K.Constable and J. Preston form a sub-committee to explore the possibility of bringing Bio Blitzes to the preserve. **MADE** by R. Allen; **SECONDED** by S. Esty; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, S. Esty, K. Constable, C. Cryder; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Next meeting of the Ad-Committee was discussed to change from the 4th Thursday Dec 28th to the 3rd Thursday Dec 21st because of the holidays.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. The next meeting of The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee will be on Thursday, December 21st, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, 308 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ray Allen, Staff Member Ad-Hoc Committee