

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, December 21, 2017
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
PARKS & RECREATION CENTER
308 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chris Cryder called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Chris Cryder
Judy Preston
Liz Swenson
Kacey Constable
Susan Esty (arrived at 6:25 p.m.)

Members Absent

Tom ODell
Kathy Connolly

Town Hall Staff Present

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 November 30, 2017 as presented with the following amendment: change bio blitzes (plural) to bio blitz (singular). **MADE** by J. Preston; **SECONDED** by K. Constable; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Preston, S. Esty, K. Constable, L. Swenson, C. Cryder; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

IV. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Robert Lorenz, Old Saybrook Land Trust was in attendance.

The Preserve Ad Hoc Committee

1

12/21/2017

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Interim Trails

C. Cryder said there was a meeting of the (CMC) Conservation Management Committee on Tuesday, 12/19/17, and many members of this committee were present.

K. Connolly was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but she sent an email saying that she will request a Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) review, based on the recommendation by W. Hochholzer at the 12/19/17 CMC meeting, suggesting an NDDDB review would need to be done prior to moving a trail. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee requested moving a small portion of one trail away from the bog because it is under water from beaver activity. The NDDDB will be done for the low spot on the trail that is up for a move, and K. Connolly will get in touch with Alex Sokolow about looking at the spot. If Committee members have other areas where they'd like A. Sokolow to visit, she asked that they let her know, and she and A. Sokolow can plan accordingly.

C. Cryder said that all that's allowed right now are the existing interim trails. They are the only trails allowed to be blazed, marked and mapped. Some of the trails can be re-colored and re-blazed to make the markings easier to see. Once the new map is made, C. Cryder will be marking the Blue and Yellow trails as was suggested by the Parks Division of the CT DEEP.

B. Update on Winter Weed Treatment

Dave Gumbart sent an email to W. Hochholzer and C. Fortuna on 12/19/17 which C. Fortuna forwarded to this Committee about Stiltgrass removal.

D. Gumbart observed Japanese stiltgrass during his walk of the perimeter trails at The Preserve on 9/15/17. Some patches are larger than what is typical, but certainly feasible to control, and the smaller patches would be relatively easy to control.

In the Eightmile River watershed, where The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has done a fair amount of stiltgrass control, they have had good success with using a brush cutter (a heavy-duty weed whacker). Flame using backpack torches can work and herbicide as well. The brush cutter is effective and has no potential negative impacts (fire hazard or herbicide use in or near wetlands).

Working with the management and ad-hoc committees, the Conservancy can help address stiltgrass control in 2018. D. Gumbart said they can plan on spending a day or two (probably all that would be needed) participating in control efforts late next summer (the week or so before and/or after Labor Day is best).

C. RFP (Request for Proposal) Update

The RPF will be going out soon according to the CMC Minutes. This Committee asked for a copy of it.

D. Committee Updates

A shield sign will be put up at the Route 153 parking lot in case the name of The Preserve changes. The shield sign will allow a new sign to be put in.

E. Any Other Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. CMC Meeting Update

Committee members suggested a proposal be put together to create a job description so that a dedicated person can be hired to coordinate the issues that were raised in S. Esty's letter to the CMC dated 12/18/17 which includes pipes that need to be capped or removed, remains of silt fencing that need to be removed, piles of trash that need to be removed, the remains of an old well pipe with wires that needs to be removed and remains of the rotting wood bridges that need to be removed. The Committee can apply for TPL (Trust for Public Land) funds to pay for someone to coordinate a remedy for these problems and oversee maintenance.

Committee members requested a copy of the CT DEEP Hunting Assessment Report done last year. They also request that a temporary sign be used at the parking lot on Route 153, that they be informed about the CMC meeting schedule and that they receive CMC meeting minutes.

This Committee will follow up with R. Allen, C. Fortuna and W. Hochholzer on a plan to resolve the items listed in the 12/18/17 letter from S. Esty.

B. Any Other New Business

There is another RFP coming up in the future for trail design. C. Cryder suggested Committee members start working on the RFP now. Committee members agreed this would be a good idea because the last RFP took a long time to complete last time. Uses have to be defined for the trails. S. Esty suggested an ADA trail for other abled people so the trails are accessible to everyone regardless of ability. J. Preston said there are some great websites with RPF templates available.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk