

Groton Parks and Recreation Department

Master Plan Committee

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

6:00 PM

Location – Groton Senior Center

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.
- 2) Roll Call: The following were present:
 - a) Committee Members: Mike Doyle, Al Nordquist, Lisa Luck, Ray Munn, Carol Fox, Sue Sutherland, and Ken Berg
 - b) Others: John Silsby, Jerry Lokken, Bob Peruzzotti (Board of Education liaison), Dick McCarthy (Parks and Recreation Commission liaison), and Chad Frost
- 3) Approval of Minutes from 6/16/10: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 6/16/10 meeting. Minutes from the 6/16/10 meeting were approved with one abstention.
- 4) Correspondence/Communications: None
- 5) Chad Frost was present at the meeting to provide presentations on the Town of Groton Trails Master Plan, and the Tri-Town Trail (Bluff Point to Preston Park, through Ledyard) initiative. Chad and his firm were a contributor to the Town of Groton Trails Master Plan, and he is a member of the organization promoting and trying to develop the Tri-Town Trail. Following are some key points from his presentations:
 - a) The Town of Groton Trails Master Plan was originally published in 2004, and is a plan to link key population, recreational, and employment centers within the Town with a network of trails that can be used for alternative (i.e., non-motor vehicle) methods of transportation. Thus far, only small portion of the plan has been implemented with the construction of the G&S Trolley Trail. Some of the benefits of alternative transportation include reduced vehicular traffic, and thus increased life span of roadways, and thus decreased roadway maintenance costs. Chad encouraged the establishment of a metric for implementing new trails within the Town of Groton, such as requiring a specific length of trail to be developed for every mile of road re-surfaced by the Town.
 - b) The Tri-Town Trail concept has been around for nearly 20 years, and an initiative to implement it has recently been resurrected within the past two years. The southern end of the proposed trail originates at the southern tip of Bluff Point State Park, and travels north via Depot Rd. and North Rd., and then parallel to Rt. 117, and then adjacent to the Groton Utilities reservoirs, crossing Rt. 184 and Rt. 214, terminating at Preston Park. Alternate trail routes that avoid some of the Groton Utilities property travel through less desirable hilly areas and more private property. Once at Preston Park, trail users could connect to another network of trails. The entire trail length is approximately 14 miles, with an elevation change of approximately 400 ft. Chad described some of the issues with implementing the trail, which includes getting approval from Groton Utilities for use

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of their land, overcoming perceptions of the trail providing easier access for water supply intentional contamination, and potential legal liability of Groton Utilities for trail users getting injured on their property. The total estimated cost to construct the trail is approximately \$3.0M. A similar presentation has been provided to Groton, Ledyard, and Preston Town officials to garner support for the trail. A bike race or ride is planned for this fall on a portion of the proposed trail route to increase support for the initiative.

- 6) The committee agreed to not hold sub-committee meetings at this meeting due to the length of the discussion on the trails plans.
- 7) Kristen Venditti has submitted a notice of resignation via email. A motion was made and approved to accept her resignation. The committee agreed to not pursue a replacement for her at this time. In addition, it was noted that Committee member Joe Kuhn has not yet attended any meetings. The Parks & Rec Commission has attempted to contact him without any success thus far. They will continue to attempt to contact him to see if he still intends on participating on the committee.
- 8) Committee members were invited to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on August 11 at the Spicer House to hear a presentation on Phase 2 of the Groton Schools project.
- 9) Sue Sutherland will chair the next committee meeting on August 18 since Lisa Luck will be away.
- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

9/15/10

Date