

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes August 28, 2014

Members Present: Stephen Winslow, Noel Mann, Susan Hedman, John McElhenny, Charles Crowley, and Jerry Goulart

Guest: Steven Whittey (sp.), Team Gloucester

Team Gloucester is a local trail runners club. Steve attended on their behalf to gain better understanding of trails access issues.

ACCEPTED Minutes from July 17, 2014 meeting

OLD BUSINESS

CPA 2014 Recreational Proposals

The CPC voted in favor of approving Light Up Mattos and Burnham's Field: Backstops and Garden Fence proposals. They voted not in favor of the Annisquam Woods purchase proposal which would require financing. Charles Crowley provided context of CPC, Annisquam Woods Proposal discussion to the committee. Charley added, he thought having a Gloucester face representing Essex County Greenbelt Association might have helped and should be considered going forward.

There was discussion around having private groups such as CATS, Greenbelt, etc. with OS&R support, taking the lead in beginning a dialogue and hosting public meetings regarding open spaces awareness, safe use, public access, parking needs and major trail marking initiatives. Nick Holland's trail marking work and Mark Cole's potential willingness to work with us on access points and parking spots at New Way Lane and Laurel St. for entry to Dyke's Pond and Mt Ann were given as examples.

NEW BUSINESS

Briar Swamp Boardwalk: bordering Rockport, in North Gloucester Woods is to be repaired.

Thatcher Road Boardwalk: running from Old Nugent Farm has renewed interest in part due to the new development (name) going in on at Thatcher Road and Witham Street.

Green Street Ballfield: has a good parking and ball field plan developed by Gloucester Little League.

Finding Dogtown Forum: Noel presented to the committee an informational FYI bulletin and map and briefly explained the "Massachusetts Self-Help Program", the role of the conservation commission and DPW in its implementation or lack thereof and its legal implications, one of the of the forum topics to be cover by her and co-presenters Laura (?) Lapionka and Mark Callan (sp.).

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Winslow decided to "hand back" the \$15,000 "Owner Unknown Parcel" CPA grant as there was little present or foreseen movement in the effort as the money should be put to use.

OTHER UPDATES

Burnham's Field Status: The playgrounds are complete, the paths are paved and ribbon cutting will take place on September 6th.

The Oval: A plan to extend Centennial Ave. entrance walkway past the ball field to the playground was deemed too expensive therefor efforts will be concentrated on bettering the playground itself.

Mass In Motion: has been extended for two years and will be more Cape Ann focused. Creating a regional trail system connecting; Rockport, Gloucester, Manchester and Essex will be part of the program's focus.

SEPTEMBER METING: It was decided the meeting should focus on a single topic "Ongoing Access Issues." There was discussion around creating a three person, sub-committee to deal specifically with this problem. Steve will contact interested groups in order to set a convenient meeting date and time. The purpose of the meeting will be to help develop a topics list, and agenda for a future public meeting. The Magnolia Library was suggested as the public meeting venue.

OCTOBER MEETING: Noel will update the committee on the Oct. 25 "Finding Dogtown" forum at his meeting tentatively scheduled 10/16/14.

Minutes submitted by Jerry Goulart