

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Open Space and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 16, 2014 - 7:00 PM

Members Present: Patti Amaral, Charlie Crowley, Jerry Goulart, Noel Mann, John McElhenny, Heidi Wakeman.

Also attending: Stephen Winslow, Mass in Motion – Cape Ann

I. Intro / Administrative

- Minutes from August 28, 2014 meeting -Approved

II. Old Business

Patti Amaral asked that “Light Up Mattos” stay on the agenda.

III. New Business

IV. Plan Implementation

- Access: West Gloucester Trail Access – Planning
 - Heidi Wakeman reported back on the results of the 10/2/14 working group meeting. (notes attached) The key issue was parking access by Fernwood, Lilly Pond, Mt. Ann and Forest Lane, perhaps smaller parking lots like Essex County Greenbelt uses. Matt Natti followed up with Mike Hale who indicated that DPW can proceed on those if the committee can ID priorities. This would not require a neighborhood meeting. The Trustees have asked that any re-opening of Mt. Ann include a Memo of Understanding with the City on how that would happen.
- Access: Watershed & Open Space Working Group. Steve Winslow reported on the DPW/Police/Fire work group.. There’s an openness to access but parking restrictions have been a key tool to deal with problem locations.

V. Grant/Assistance Opportunities

VI. Other Updates

- Finding Dogtown – October 25th Forum: 9 – noon, Cape Ann Museum
- The Oval – Construction Status / Community Build – Happening November 6-8.
- CPA Applications – Light Up Mattos and Burnham’s Field Backstops going towards approval for 2015.
- Mass in Motion – Cape Ann – Regional Planning Efforts will include a focus on trails

VII. Meeting Schedule 2014

- *Next Meetings –*
2014: November 20th

Planning Meeting 9/24/14
West Gloucester Trailhead Access Public Meeting

Present:

Steve Whittey, Team Gloucester
Charlie, OSRC
Patti, OSRC
Jerry, OSRC
Heidi W, OSRC
Nick Holland, CATS
John Francis,
Matt Natti, CA Climbing Coalition
Chris Francis
Nick Taormina
Dan Gove, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)
_____, TTOR

AGENDA:

- 1) Identify the most popular locations people currently access trails in West Gloucester
- 2) Identify any potential new trail heads.
- 3) Identify means to improve those locations including:
 - a. Improved signage
 - b. Adjustments / creation of off-street parking
 - c. Security improvements

NEEDS:

- ▲ Create a *welcome* sign at the trailheads THE WELCOME sign is more important

Locations:

New Way Lane, Laurel Lane

Forest Lane, Fernwood Lake Trail (on 133/Essex Ave)

Size: 4 cars

SMALL parking lots (see ECGA model)

Trail Improvement/Maintenance

Partnership with CATS, NEMBA, TTOR

Maintenance:

Access hours: ?

Announce this as a trial period:

Defining the access:

Could we have TTOR signage in the parking areas?

IS PARKING MORE IMPT OR ACCESS?

SUGGESTION was made for TTOR to meet w/ECGA about land acquisition/access/parking

IDEA:

Residents Only Stickers for June-September

Shut down access to the masses during the warm months

NEXT STEPS:

Dan (TTOR) will investigate what needs to be done to open Mount Ann.

Nick Holland: Check in w/DPW re: these ideas before going to the public

Plan public meeting at next (October) Open Space Meeting with expected early November public meeting.