

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2009

Chet Hayden	RI Federation of Riding Clubs
Sylvia Hayden	RI Federation of Riding Clubs
Cindy Julien	GOPAC
Don Dibiasio	RISRRA
Lisa Primiano	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Gregg J. Cassidy	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Catherine Sparks	RIDEM, Forestry
Steve Church	RIDOT
Jay B. Aron	RIDEM, Forestry
Bob Butler	NEA4WDC
Jack Lancelotta	Jaycee Foundation & PRA/WC
Kevin Nelson	Statewide Planning
Larry Mouradjian	RI DEM
Lisa Bryer	Jamestown Planning
Chris Powell	Jamestown Conservation Commission
Denise Poyer	WPWA
Sue Barker	Greenways Alliance of RI
Henry Cruciani	AMC
Barbara Kilcup	Yankee Trailers
Meg Kerr	RI Blueways Alliance

Meeting called to order at 3:37 PM.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** Review of meeting minutes for the June 16, 2009 meeting.

Motion to accept meeting minutes of December 16, 2008 meeting, with corrections, made by Kevin Nelson and seconded by Chet Hayden. **Approved.**

Small Grant Request.

- The Norman Bird Sanctuary (NBS) request for \$1800, which was tabled at the last meeting, was discussed. Joe McClaughlin, of Norman Bird Sanctuary responded to a letter sent by Gregg Cassidy asking for clarification about their status. Gregg Cassidy reported that NBS charges for use of the trail.

Discussion centered on the need for non-profit organizations to generate revenue versus the use of public funds to improve infrastructure that can generate revenue for a private organization. Sue Barker stated a clear policy is needed to assure that if this situation arises again grants are given to projects that provide the most benefit to the public. Lisa Primiano volunteered to draft a policy that addresses this issue for future. Steve Church and Sue Barker volunteered to assist.

Motion to approve NBS request for \$1800.00 for a trail improvement grant made by Lisa Primiano seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved. NOTE: Donn Dibiasio and Cindy Julien voted against the request. Larry Mouradjian abstained from the vote.**

Grants Update

- Island Cart Path Trail Grant. This grant, for \$50,000, was awarded to the Town of Jamestown in 2006 that was never completed due to wetland issues on the site. Lisa Bryer (Town Planner) and Chris Powell (Jamestown Conservation Commission) presented the proposed change; involving using the funding for another part of the trail than initially planned. Kevin Nelson motioned to approve the request to modify location of the trail from the original grant request. Sue Barker seconded. **Approved.**
- Tiverton Land Trust This is a nearly completed project funded through the 2005 grant round. The land Trust is seeking permission to use some of the remaining balance for signs (this was not in the original grant request). Motion to approve amendment of the grant to allow purchase of signs by Barbara Kilcup, seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved.**
- The Town of Charlestown, through their Conservation Commission, requested an extension for the South Farm Preserve trail improvement project. They have submitted a progress report as well as list of tasks to be done. Motion to approve one year extension by Sylvia Hayden, seconded by Denise Poyer. **Approved.**

Other Business

Trails grant education and outreach. Gregg Cassidy gave an update on the work of the education and outreach subcommittee. This includes a revision of the web page in anticipation of future grant rounds.

The topic of the use of Federal Highway funds for educational grants was discussed. Federal Highway Administration guidance states RTP funds may be used for development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails.

Future Trail Improvement Grant Round

Steve Church reported that the Program has \$874,000 from fiscal year 09. Although some of that will be rescinded, another \$450,000 will be available in October. The estimated available for grants is \$893,000.

Discussion revolved around the grant amounts and match required. Steve Church clarified that the grants are for up to 80 percent of project costs- the grantees must provide 20 percent. Lisa Primiano recommended increasing the maximum amount of the Materials Only Grants to \$3000.00 and capping the Community Grants at \$100,000.00.

Cathy Sparks announced that the grant round will be announced before the next TAC meeting (October 20th) the specific announcement will occur before the next TAC meeting. Availability of the grants will be announced through a press release issued by DEM as well as on the DEM website.

New Chair of Committee

Cathy Sparks introduced Lisa Primiano who will be replacing her as Chair of the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee.

Motion to authorize the fall grant round and budget by Kevin Nelson. Seconded by Sylvia Hayden. **Approved.**

Next meeting October 20, 2009 at 3:30

Motion to Adjourn by Kevin Nelson. Seconded by Sylvia Hayden. **Approved.**

Meeting adjourned 4:45.