

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2009

Robert Butler	Northeast Association of 4 x 4 Clubs
Bill McCormick	RITC
Jay B. Aron	RIDEM Forestry
Gregg J. Cassidy	RI DEM Planning & Development
Chet Hayden	RI Federation of Riding Clubs
Sylvia Hayden	RI Federation of Riding Clubs
Cindy Julien	Gun Owners PAC
Don DiBiasio	RI State Rifle & Revolver Association
Steve Church	RIDOT
Lisa Primiano	RI DEM Planning & Development
Denise Poyer	Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Peter Gengler	IMBA
Catherine Sparks	RIDEM Forestry
Larry Mouradjian	DEM
Kevin Nelson	Statewide Planning
Jack Lancelotta	Jaycee Foundation & PRA/WC
Dwight David Colvin	Jaycee Alumni Club
Meg Kerr	RI Blueways Alliance

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM.

1. Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to accept meeting minutes of August 18, 2009. Motion to approve by Chet Hayden, seconded by Bob Butler. **Approved.**
3. Status of Outstanding Grants
4. Budget

Lisa Primiano presented an overview of the budget for the recreational trails program in relation to the anticipated grant round. Representatives from DEM & DOT meet with Barbara Breslin from the Federal Highway Administration on October 7th to discuss funds available for the next grant round. \$276 K is available

from existing funds in the account at DOT and it is anticipated an additional \$870K of FY 2010 funds can be used.

Steve Church mentioned that the funding for the grant round remains in place but funding for each project will be authorized by DOT when the project is ready to be reimbursed. This is different from previous grant rounds that authorized the entire amount available from the FHWA allocation. Once appropriated the funds are available for five year, after that funds not encumbered can be reallocated (taken away).

Lisa Primiano announced plans to develop a spreadsheet to track income and payments. Larry Mourajian mentioned that this would prove useful to encumber funds allocated to the Program so funds wouldn't be lost (due to rescission).

Cathy Sparks added that a reporting component should be integrated

5. Pending Grant Round

Educational grants- a broader use of RTP funds for education is allowed then currently applied in RI. According to Barbara Breslin historical information about trail is eligible. This provides more opportunity for educational grants but only 5% of the State's allocation can be used for educational grants.

Lisa Primiano asked for volunteers to serve on a scoring committee to evaluate grant applications for the upcoming grant round. This is likely to involve three or four meetings. Committee members would have to review background information on each grant prior to the meeting. Denise Poyer and Steve Church volunteered. Lisa asked anyone interested to email Gregg Cassidy within the next two weeks.

There were questions about the scoring criteria and Kevin Nelson, who worked on developing the criteria, clarified that grants are evaluated using objective criteria and ranked from low to high with a minimum score threshold so poor projects are not funded.

Lisa Primiano outlined an estimated grant timetable with applications due the end of January or early February and awards announced in late winter or early spring.

6. Small Grant Requests

A grant request from the William C. O'Neil Bike Path. The organization, working closely with the Town of South Kingstown, requests \$1800.00 for signs. A graphic depicting design to be used was available for review.

- Motion to approve \$1800.00 grant to Friends of William C. O'Neil bike path for signage by Bob Butler, seconded by Chet Hayden. **Approved.**

Larry Mouradjian requested acknowledgement of Federal Highway Administration funding on the signs.

7. Other.

Town of Charlestown sent correspondence requesting an extension of the grant for the Mud Cove property. Denise Poyer mentioned that this could be one of the grants that was funded in 2006 but wasn't authorized to proceed until 2008.

- Motion to table the request until Lisa and Gregg meet with them to get a sense of the likelihood of the project being completed by Larry Mouradjian, seconded by Chet Hayden. **Approved.**

Lisa Primiano brought up the possibility of changing the meeting schedule from every other month to quarterly with extra meetings to be held as needed. The results of the discussion was to keep the current schedule as that there was too much business for quarterly meetings.

Meg Kerr suggested including a grant tracking form as part of the meeting minutes to keep the Committee informed as to the status of grants that have been approved.

Motion to adjourn Denise Poyer, seconded by Meg Kerr.

Meeting adjourned 4:30.