

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2011

USDA Conference Room
60 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI

Gregg J. Cassidy	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Cindy Julien	Gun Owners Political Action Committee
Robert Butler	Northeast Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
Lisa Primiano	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Gail Hogan	
Stephan P. Hogan	
Steve Church	RIDOT
Sue Barker	Greenways Alliance of RI
Denise Poyer	WPWA
Kevin Nelson	Statewide Planning
Al Moder	North East Mountain Biking Association
Pete Skeffington	Glocester Resource Commission
Henry H. Gold	Glocester Land Trust
Jay B. Aron	RIDEM, Forestry
Peter Gengler	International Mountain Biking Association
Henry Cruciani	Appalachian Mountain Club
Roy Najecki	RI Land Trust Council
Bill McCormick	RI Trails Club
Meg Kerr	RI Blueways Alliance
Edward Walsh	DeLasalle Christian Brothers

Meeting called to order at 3:32

1. Introductions.
 - a. Cindy Julien informed the Committee that her husband, longtime Trail Advisory Committee member Donn Dibasio, recently passed away and she was resigning her position to pursue other activities. She introduced Gail and Stephan Hogan who are interested in replacing her and Donn on the Committee.

- b. Pete Skeffington and Henry Gold came to answer questions regarding the trail grant request submitted by the Town of Gloucester that's on the agenda.
 - c. Ed Walsh came to present details about the proposed project by the Christian Brothers at Black Point in Narragansett.
2. Review of meeting minutes of November 16, 2010
 Motion to approve the minutes by Roy Najecki, seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved.**
3. Current Grants
- a. Grant Extension Request, Town of Charlestown, Mud Cove (06-90-05).
 This project has been delayed due to the sensitive nature of the site. The Town has provided documentation of their permit status with CRMC.

 Motion to approve a one (1) year grant extension by Bob Butler, seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved.**
 - b. Grant Amendment, Foster Land Trust (10-08-07)
 The Land Trust requested reallocating their grant funds and not providing a handicapped accessible bench since trail improvements and repairs to the trail will use most of the grant.
 Jay Aron made a motion to increase the grant (850 (the cost of the ADA accessible bench) since this is an opportunity to facilitate access for trail users with disabilities and the grant (\$2300) is still below the maximum allowed. Denise Poyer seconded the motion. Kevin Nelson felt uncomfortable did not approve of changing the maximum funding to existing grants.
Approved.
 - c. Grant Extension Request, Pawtuxet River Authority, Veterans Square (36-90-05)
 Gregg Cassidy reported that PRA has completed, and been reimbursed for, some aspects of this project. Permitting delayed the start of the project so it won't be completed on schedule; hence an extension has been requested.

 Bob Butler made a motion to approve a six month extension, seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved.**
 - d. Grant Extension Request, Friends of Wm. C O'Neil Bike Path (09-08-8)
 This project has showed steady progress but the trail grant is a small part of a much larger project. Denise Poyer made a motion to approve a grant extension, seconded by Bob Butler. **Approved.**
 - e. Grant Extension Request, Town of South Kingstown, Old Mountain Field (10-08-06).
 Henry Cruciani had knowledge of this project since the Town consulted with AMC when planning the project; it involves replacing a long bridge over a wide stream. He thought the requested six month extension was too short since the work could only take place in very late spring or summer when

water is lower. Lisa Primiano suggested a one year extension. Roy Najecki made a motion for a one year extension of the grant, seconded by Henry Cruciani. **Approved.**

4. Small Grant Requests

- a. West Bay Land Trust, \$1386.0. Meshanticut Lake Trail.
This grant is for funding to stabilize a trail degraded by heavy use. Henry Cruciani made a motion to fund the project, seconded by Bob Butler. **Approved.**
- b. West Greenwich Land Trust, \$2750.00. Tefft Trail & Pratt Trail.
This project involves a kiosk and signs on an established trail system. Volunteer labor will provide the 20% required match. Bill McCormick pointed out that the proposed budget assumed a match rate of \$40.00 per hour, which seems high. Lisa Primiano acknowledged that the volunteer labor rate they used will have to be clarified and the grant adjusted, if necessary, to insure the Land Trust provides at least 20 % of project costs. Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the grant, seconded by Peter Gengler. **Approved.**
- c. Norman Bird Sanctuary, \$1800.00.
This involves a kiosk and signage on an existing trail. This Organization has successfully completed several projects in the past. Cindy Julien pointed out that NBS charges membership fees so access to the trail isn't free. Bob Butler made a motion to approve the grant request, seconded by Roy Najecki. **Approved.** Cindy Julien voted against.
- d. DEM, Black Point, Narragansett

Ed Walsh, representing the Christian Brothers, gave an overview of the project. The Christian Brothers, in partnership with the Town of Narragansett and DEM, propose to construct an ADA accessible trail and clear view corridors at the Black Point property on Ocean Road. The 1430' long trail would start at the existing parking lot, continue north along the shoreline, then form a loop back to the starting point. The grant request is for 81,100. The project is on DEM property but the Christian Brothers are willing to provide matching funds and maintenance for the project.

Lisa Primiano pointed out that this project is cross between that would be funded in a DEM grant round and a municipal/non-profit grant round.

Jay Aron questioned whether there was money available to fund the grant.

Denise Poyer thought it was a good project but would set a bad precedent since it bypasses the normal grant solicitation process.

Lisa Primiano said that DOT had money for the Recreational Trails Program that would be rescinded in September. This is essentially a DEM project that is being managed by an outside agency.

Kevin Nelson wondered if there is a middle approach that would allow endorsement (by the Committee) of large projects outside of the normal grant rounds with recommendations to the Director.

Jay Aron pointed out it could still take 18-24 months for the project to be completed.

Denise Poyer felt that it was not fair to the projects rejected in the most recent grant round to fund this.

Henry Cruciani questioned how much money was available and will funds be allocated to other projects? Steve Church responded that between 10 and 20 projects submitted in the last grant round were not funded and it is possible to go back to that list and fund more.

Roy Najecki questioned whether funding this grant would impede funding small grants in the future. Steve Church assured him it wouldn't.

Peter Gengler felt that this project should be funded since it is likely the money will not be available in the future.

Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the grant request, seconded by Bob Butler. Steve Church added the funding would be pending archeological and environmental review of the project. Bob Butler requested a sign be installed to recognize the Trail Advisory Committee as the source of funding. **Approved.** Kevin Nelson abstained.

- e. Gloucester Land Trust, \$2182.39. Steere Hill Trail Head
This project involves improvements to the trail head to expand parking to allow school buses and horse trailers at the 300 acre property. Denise Poyer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Denise Barker. **Approved.**
- f. AMC, \$2615.00, Blackstone Park.
This is a heavily used urban park. The proposed project is for fencing to restrict access to damaged trails. Henry Cruciani made a motion to fund the proposed project, seconded by Peter Gengler, approved.
- g. Ronald Smith, \$3747.31, snowmobile grooming sled
This would fund purchase of equipment to groom snowmobile trails on State owned property. Jay Aron stated that snowmobiles are allowed on roads, not trails, in George Washington Management Area only. Lisa Primiano pointed out that this is an individual not 501c3 so ineligible for a grant.

5. Other Business

Revised Regulations

Lisa Primiano provided an update: a subgroup met and developed draft revisions which were reviewed by a DEM attorney.

Meg Kerr commented that the proposed regulations don't discuss grant categories- there are five categories.

Lisa Primiano replied that the Committee has the flexibility to modify the regulations as well as rework the application. A full discussion can take place at the next meeting.

Roy Najecki questioned whether specific guidelines and grant criteria would be developed internally.

Gail Hogan felt, as currently written, the draft regulations disallow Committee I input.

Denise Poyer thought it was already it was already written in the draft regulations that the Committee can set criteria.

Peter Gengler made a motion to approve the draft regulations provided language is inserted that the Trails Advisory Committee has the authority to set grant guidelines as well as eligibility criteria. seconded by Roy Najecki. **Approved.**

ADA Issues

Gregg distributed information about potential ADA issues involving trail grants.

Lisa Primiano offered the Committee could meet collectively in the future to discuss this and other policies.

News

Peter Gengler announced two upcoming trail biking events; Cleanup at Big River on April 16th and IMBA Trail School at Lincoln Woods on May 14-15th.

Motion to adjourn made by Denise Poyer, seconded by Bob Butler. **Approved.**

Next Meeting:

May 17, 2011
3:30 PM
USDA
60 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886