

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2011

USDA Conference Room

60 Quaker Lane

Warwick, RI

Gregg J. Cassidy RI DEM, Planning & Development

Lisa Primiano RI DEM, Planning & Development

Gail Hogan RI State Rifle & Revolver Association

Stephan P. Hogan Gun Owners Action League

Martha Cruciani Appalachian Mountain Club

Colleen McGrath Friends of Ballard Park

Bill McCormick RI Trails Club

Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council

Robert Butler Northeast Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

Al Moder North East Mountain Biking Association

Peter Gengler International Mountain Biking Association

Kevin Nelson Statewide Planning

Alicia Lehrer Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Meeting called to order at 3:32

a. Introductions.

Lisa Primiano distributed a membership list with updated information. She asked members to review and get back to her with corrections.

b. Review of meeting minutes of February 15, 2011

Motion to approve the minutes by Peter Gengler, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved.

c. Current Grants

a. Grant Extension Request, Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy, Neutaconkanut Hill Park (10-08-17). Motion to extend to 12/31/11 made by Stephan Hogan, seconded by Gail Hogan. Approved. .

b. Grant Amendment Request. Tiverton Open Space & Land Preservation Committee (10-08-17)

The Committee requested reallocating their grant funds to allow use of funds to purchase of a portable generator.

Roy Najecki stated out that the items purchased were not on the original grant proposal therefore are ineligible for reimbursement. He also pointed out that the generator could have been rented for \$58.00

a day.

Kevin Nelson noted that the equipment had limited use for trail projects other than construction.

Roy Najecki questioned what would happen to the generator now that the project is complete. What would it be used for? Where would it be stored?

Bill McCormick stated that he found it hard to believe that the Town didn't own a generator that the Committee could use for the project.

Motion to deny the request and only reimburse for expenses approved in the original grant made by Roy Najecki, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved.

d. Small Grant Requests

a. Woonasquacket River Watershed Council. \$2949.00. Trail maintenance equipment.

Alicia Lehrer presented the Council request for funds to purchase mowing equipment to maintain the Woonasquacket River Bike Path.

Alicia stated that the Town of Johnston does not have the resources to maintain the path and the Watershed Council has just signed a long-term agreement (for four years) with DOT to maintain it. The equipment is for exclusive use on the Bike path and will be stored at the Providence Housing Authority property adjacent to the site.

Bill McCormick asked who would use the machine. Alicia replied that the equipment will be used by a crew hired by the Watershed Council

to maintain the Bike Path.

Stephen Hogan questioned whether a specific make and model of equipment has been selected. Alicia stated that they had researched 36" wide commercial mowers.

Peter Gengler introduced a motion to approve \$2949.00 for purchase of a mower to maintain the Woonasquatucket River Bike Path, Gail Hogan seconded the motion. Roy Najecki abstained since he is on the Board of Directors for the Watershed Council. Approved.

b. Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs. \$600.00 for repair of the outhouse at the Reynolds Horseman's Area in Arcadia. Jay Aron, who could not attend the meeting, forwarded his support of the project.

Bill McCormick questioned whether the site is open to the public or locked. Roy and Martha both have been to the site and knew it is open to the public.

Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the request by the Riding Club for \$600 for the project, Seconded by Stephen Hogan. Approved.

c. Appalachian Mountain Club. \$1000.00 for safety equipment for trail crews. Martha Cruciani explained the request for equipment (signs, vests, etc,) that would be used to when trail improvement projects are underway to protect volunteers and trail users during the trail renovation process.

Bob Butler made a motion to approve \$1000.00 for safety equipment to be used during trail improvement projects, seconded by Peter Gengler. Approved.

d. Friends of Ballard Park \$10,000 for trail related educational programs at Ballard Park in Newport. Colleen McGrath distributed an annual report and calendar events for the Park. The summer program targets low income children and features a “Safe in Nature” curriculum that includes environmental education and outdoor safety information (poison ivy, insect bites, etc.).

Lisa Primiano questioned how the grant would be matched. Colleen McGrath replied that fees charged to the school system will provide match.

Roy Najecki questioned whether the amount questioned is eligible or whether the grant is limited to \$3000.00. Gregg Cassidy replied that educational projects are eligible for larger grants.

Bill McCormick questioned how much of the 10,000 grant pay for the salary of the educator. Colleen McGrath replied that most of the grant would be used for salary. .

Kevin Nelson asked how this grant would affect the overall budget of the recreational trail program in RI. Lisa Primiano replied that our budget for each type of grant is not firm and we can allocate funds to all types of grants.

Kevin Nelson made a motion that the Committee approve this grant request based on the availability of funds, Roy Najecki seconded the motion. Approved.

e. Roy Najecki made a motion to move to Item G on the Agenda

(another grant request by Friends of Ballard Park), seconded by Peter Gengler. Approved.

f. Friends of Ballard Park \$3000.00 to clear invasive plants from the Quarry Meadow Trail. This project is for maintenance expenses to keep open a trail. Roy Najecki pointed out the budget itemization should show a labor rate of \$25.00/HR not \$35.00/HR for match.

Peter Gendler made a motion to approve the grant request for \$3000.00 to clear Quarry Trail at Ballard Park, Roy Najecki seconded the motion. Approved.

g. Cumberland Land Trust, \$3000.00. Scott Brook Trail. This is a small part of a much larger project being done in phases.

Kevin Nelson made a motion to approve a grant for \$3000 to be used for cleanup costs associated with this trail development project, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved.

h. Appalachian Mountain Club. \$1840.00 for trail improvement at Vin Gormley Trail in Burlingame management Area (part of the North-South Trail).

Gail Hogan made a motion to approve the grant, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved.

i. Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust. \$1600.00 for trail construction at Bradner Preserve. This project involves creating a

loop trail on a recently purchased parcel. The grant is for purchase of materials only.

Peter Gengler made a motion to approve the grant request, seconded by Martha Cruciani. Approved.

j. Foster-Glocester Regional School District. \$3000.00 for construction of a new trail on the Middle School Property in Glocester.

Gregg Cassidy is familiar with the project and briefed the Committee; it involves construction of a loop trail to be available for use by students and the general public.

Peter Gengler made a motion to approve the \$3000.00 grant request, Gail Hogan seconded the request.

Kevin Nelson asked that we be given some assurance that the parcel will be permanently available to the public and can't be later developed. Lisa Primiano pointed out that we don't request this from other grant applicants. Approved.

k. RI Trials Club \$3000.00 for repair of the trail hut at Arcadia Management Area in Exeter. Bill McCormick explained the project which would rebuild a historic trail hut back to its original design. Bob Butler made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Martha Cruciani. Approved.

e. Other Business

Peter Gengler provided an update on the Big River Cleanup which involved 200 volunteers filling 15 dumpsters of debris from the Management Area. He also reported on a recent IMBA trail school to create sustainable trails. It focused on techniques used on trails that supported both hikers and bikers.

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 Kevin Nelson, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved. Adjourned at 5:05

Next Meeting:

August 16, 2011

3:30 PM

USDA

60 Quaker Lane

Warwick, RI 02886