

**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**

**RI Trails Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 15, 2011**

**USDA Conference Room**

**60 Quaker Lane**

**Warwick, RI**

**Members Present:**

**Jay Aron RI DEM, Forestry**

**Robert Butler Northeast Association of 4 x 4 Clubs**

**Steven Church RI Department of Transportation**

**Martha Cruciani Barton Farm**

**Peter Gengler International Mountain Biking Association**

**Stephen Hogan Gun Owners Action League**

**Meg Kerr RI Blueways Alliance**

**Bill McCormick RI Trials Club**

**Al Moder North East Mountain Biking Association**

**Larry Mouradjian RI DEM**

**Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council**

**Kevin Nelson RI Statewide Planning**

**Mike Parker Appalachian Mountain Club – Narragansett Chapter**

**Denise Poyer Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association**

**Lisa Primiano RI DEM, Planning & Development**

**Catherine Sparks RI DEM, Forestry/Fish and Wildlife**

**Jeannine Dougherty Yankee Trailers**

**Guests Present:**

**Kurt Jamiel Warren Conservation Commission**

**Cynthia Henley Warren resident**

**Don Betts Warren resident**

**Meeting called to order at 3:30**

**1. Introductions**

**a. All members and guests introduced themselves.**

**2. Review of meeting minutes of August 16, 2011**

**a. Motion to approve the minutes by Bob Butler, seconded by Al Moder. Approved.**

**3. Current Grants**

**a. Nine month grant extension request from the Wood- Pawcatuck Watershed Association for trail improvements at Browning Mill Pond Trail (10-08-05). An Eagle Scout candidate will organize and conduct the project this fall and an extension will allow time for the WPWA to complete the subsequent paperwork before the grant expiration date.**

**A motion to approve the extension by Catherine Sparks, seconded by Bill McCormick. Approved.**

**b. Grant modification request by the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to change the equipment grant (11-08-02) from**

mower and trailer to maintain the greenway and bikepath to a brushcutters, chainsaw attachments, and string trimmers. Bill McCormick noted that the total cost of items on the modification request was less than the original grant and that the equipment list and purpose appears to make sense. A motion to approve the modification by Catherine Sparks, seconded by Peter Gengler. Roy Najecki abstained from voting since he is on the WRWC Board of Directors. Approved.

#### **4. Small Grant Requests**

It was discussed that applications often arrive at DEM just before the meeting agenda is published, and this does not give enough time for DEM staff to review the application for completeness so it can be considered by the TAC. The consensus was that a grant application must be submitted at least one week prior to a meeting, and that annual meeting dates should be posted on the DEM website and the grant application form.

##### **a. Town of Warren Waterfront Trail – Company Street Lookout \$3,000.**

The project is to improve access with benches, stairs, bike rack, planters, and paving blocks. Larry Mouradjian noted to Kurt Jamiel that approval from the Coastal Resources Management Commission will be required. Meg Kerr suggested that other types of bicycle racks may be more useful and they should be considered. Kevin Nelson questioned the concrete planters as they are not eligible for this

grant. It was agreed that planters would be removed from the grant. Denise Poyer questioned the replacement of grass with concrete pavers as they are impervious and would increase runoff from the parking area into the Warren River. The Warren representatives stated that grass removal would be minimal, but done to increase handicapped accessibility. Bill McCormick questioned the height of the stair wall and stair material: precast concrete vs. aluminum. Kurt Jamiel said the 6 ft tall stairs will be anchored to the wall, and that the cost of aluminum stairs is not known but will be investigated. A motion to approve the grant by Stephen Hogan, seconded by Kevin Nelson with a condition that a revised budget be submitted to DEM to remove the planters from the project. Approved.

**b. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association - \$3,000.**

The WPWA is requesting \$2,500 to hire a contractor to remove trees from the Wood and Pawcatuck River. Trees fell into this Blueways Trail during Hurricane Irene. The WPWA is also requesting \$500 to purchase a used canoe with an electric motor so it may do trail maintenance and supervise contractor tree removal. Larry Mouradjian questioned the calculation of tree removal cost, and how many trees are known to be in the rivers. Jay Aron suggested that a better procedure would be to determine the contractor cost per hour, not cost per tree removed as that will vary depending on tree size. Catherine Sparks suggested that when doing this tree removal work a log be kept of how much time is spent per task, so that it can be referenced when considering future projects. Because of the

uncertainty on tree removal cost figures, Denise Poyer agreed to separate the canoe purchase from contracted tree removal, and at a future meeting submit a grant application for tree removal. A motion to approve a \$500 grant to purchase a used canoe with electric motor was made by Stephen Hogan, seconded by Meg Kerr. Approved.

**c. Norman Bird Sanctuary – Third Beach Trail \$3,000**

The Sanctuary is requesting \$3,000 to purchase 1,500 feet of fencing to restrict access to sensitive dune habitat areas. Bill McCormick questioned the type of fencing material that was being requested, as the grant application was not clear on that detail. Also grant application was not clear as to fence location and sign information. The consensus was to table this application and request clarifications. Since the Sanctuary frequently applies for grants, having their representative attend a future meeting to explain their overall plan would be helpful to the TAC.

**d. Town of Johnston – Johnston Memorial Park \$3,000**

The Town wishes to repave with asphalt 300 feet of track. Kevin Nelson suggested that because this is a paving project in a municipal park, that a R.I. Recreation Resources Review Committee (RRRC) grant may be a better funding source. It was also noted that the \$350/hour contractor cost appears excessive. Several members expressed concern that making trail grants for a non natural surface trail or path would be a bad precedent. Otherwise this grant program would be used to pave bike paths, which is currently funded by the

**Dept of Transportation. A motion to table the grant without prejudice was made by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Stephen Hogan. Applicant will be referred to the RRRC. Approved.**

**e. RI Land Trust Council – Land Trust Trails \$3,000**

**The RILTC is requesting an educational project grant to create seven trail maps for printing and placement on a website. These maps would be of existing, but unmapped, trails on property owned by several RI land trusts in an effort to promote greater public awareness and safe use of these properties. Steve Church said that this grant might be permissible if it was reclassified as a regular ‘Small Project Grant’. Kevin Nelson stated that mapping is not an allowed use of grant funds, except when a map is a minor component of a project. Because of the uncertainty of Federal reimbursement approval, at the request of Roy Najecki the application was withdrawn. Staff will review the allowable funding of this project and return at a later date.**

**5. Other Business**

**a. Henry Cruciani – resignation.**

**The TAC was notified of Henry’s resignation and his wife Martha relayed his regards and hopes of staying active in the trail community. The TAC expressed its thanks for Henry’s long and valuable service to this committee and Rhode Island trail users, and requested a letter of thanks be sent to Henry.**

**b. Robert Butler – appointment**

**Effective June 15, 2011, Robert Butler has been appointed to the TAC for a five year term. He represents the interests of the North East Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, and we officially welcome him aboard.**

**c. Mike Parker – appointment**

**With Henry Cruciani's resignation, Mike Parker will join the TAC representing the interests of the Appalachian Mountain Club – Narragansett Chapter. Mike is actively involved in trail building and maintenance in Arcadia and West Greenwich. The TAC warmly welcomes Mike aboard.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Bill McCormick, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00**

**Next Meeting:**

**February 21, 2012 3:30 PM**

**USDA – Conference Room**

**60 Quaker Lane**

**Warwick RI 02886**