

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2013

Gregg J. Cassidy RI DEM, Planning & Development

Lisa Primiano RIDEM, Planning & Development

Kevin Nelson RI Statewide Planning

Sue Barker Greenways Alliance of RI

Robert Butler Northeast Association of 4 x 4 Clubs

Jay B. Aron RIDEM, Forestry

Peter Gengler International Mountain Biking Association

Steve Church RIDOT

John Rousseau Fox Point Neighborhood Association

Denise Poyer Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Meg Kerr RI Blueways Alliance

Stephan Hogan RI Rifle & Revolver Association

Gail Hogan Gun Owners Political Action Committee

Catherine Sparks RIDEM, Forestry

Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council

Meeting called to order at 3:35 PM.

- **Motion to accept meeting minutes of August 21, 2012 meeting by Roy Najecki, seconded by Denise Poyer. Approved.**

- **Large Grants**

Lisa Primiano updated the Committee on the status of the applications for Large Recreational Trail Grants . We received 53 application, they were scored and ranked by the Sub-Committee and 29 approved for funding. This includes both equipment and trail improvement grants. DOT will authorize two years worth of funding so a total of 1.6 million is available for projects.

Meg Kerr asked why only 23 projects were funded. Kevin Nelson (who was on the Scoring Committee) clarified that some grants were poorly written and some ineligible, but limited funding prevented more grants from being funded.

Lisa Primiano mentioned that unnecessary components in proposals would be screened out (all items requested would not be funded) to allow more projects to receive funding.

Gregg Cassidy outlined the next steps:

- o **TAC Committee makes a recommendation to the Director**
- o **DEM signs contracts (outlining the terms of the project) with**

grantees

o A Purchase Order is prepared allocating funds for the project

o The grantees are dispersed when projects are completed and grantees submit for reimbursement

Jay Aron made a motion to recommend funding of the 29 projects as proposed by the Review Committee, seconded by Kevin Nelson.

Approved

• Small Grant Requests

Fox Point Neighborhood Association. \$3000.00 Trail Marker in Gano Park, Providence.

John Rouseeau described the proposed project which involved installing a trail marker at a historical point on Blackstone Bike Path. Part of the project also involves landscaping around the marker.

Roy Najecki made a motion to decline the grant request since it didn't meet eligibility guidelines for the Recreational Trail Program, seconded by Bob Butler. Approved- (Grant Request denied). Lisa Primiano provided Mr. Rouseeau with information about other sources of grants that may be able to fund his project.

Rhode Island Land Trust Council. \$6000. Trail education.

Trail education and safety workshops to be held during Land Trust Days during August and September. The project includes developing outreach and education materials (website, post card, press release and press templates) for Land Trusts to use to increase public awareness and safe use of trails. Three workshops for Land Trust leaders at the Land & Water Summit.

Peter Gengler made a motion to approve the grant request, seconded by Cathy Sparks. Approved. Roy Najecki abstained from voting.

West Bay Land Trust \$2465. Erosion control on Meshanticut Lake Trail.

This is the fourth phase of an effort to reduce erosion and runoff on a heavily used trail adjacent to Meshanticut Lake in Cranston.

Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the grant as presented, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved.

Meg Kerr pointed out that the Land Trust has received funds for the same area but the Committee has no way to gauge the effectiveness of the grants. Lisa Primiano suggested that for multi phase projects applicants submit maps and a plan so the Committee can more accurately evaluate it.

Narrow River Land Trust. \$2820.00. Trail education; signage.

The project involves installation of signs at 18 Land Trust Properties to provide trail and site information.

Bob Butler questioned what was the content of the signs. Cathy Sparks questioned about the primary purpose of the project and suggested photo documentation of completed work to ensure the signs are in compliance with the goals of the Program. Cathy Sparks made a motion for approval of the grant a prototype is provided to production and photo documentation be provided after the signs are completed, seconded by Gail Hogan. Approved.

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. \$5000.00. Education Grant.

This project is focused on educating Bike Path users in Providence about trail safety.

Kevin Nelson made a motion to approve the project provided:

- 1. A Lesson Plan with details of the curriculum is forwarded to the Committee**
- 2. An accounting a students served is provided**
- 3. There is a multilingual component to the curriculum**

Gail Hogan seconded the motion, Grant Request Approved.

Greenway Alliance. \$16,000. Trail Mix Newsletter.

This grant request is for the production and distribution of two years of the Trail Mix Newsletter (8 issues). This project will focus on education and promotion of recreational trails but will integrate other environmental issues including DEM's great outdoor pursuit. It costs about \$1800 for each issue, costs include design, printing, mailing, and distribution in libraries.

Kevin Nelson made a motion to authorize 16,000 in funding for the project with 8,000 allocated from this years budget and 8,000 from next years budget. Seconded by Peter Gengler. Approved.

Friends of Ballard Park. \$3000.00 Invasive Plant Removal.

This project involves removing invasive plants adjacent to a trail in Ballard Park in Newport.

Meg Kerr pointed out that the Committee has granted funds for equipment for vegetation control as well as to remove invasive plants in the recent past. Kevin Nelson added that the Committee has delegated \$3000/year for several years to this Organization. Catherine Sparks added that there may be a more effective long term solution for invasive plant control. Roy Najecki pointed out the grant budget is for 120 hours (three weeks work) to maintain one mile of trail which seems excessive. Kevin Nelson made a motion to defer the grant request until the Organization can provide a more effective solution.

**Roy Najecki seconded the motion, motion to defer the request
Approved.**

East Providence Land Conservation Trust. \$880.00. Equipment.

**The grant request is for a mower to be used by Conservation Trust
volunteers to maintain a trail. Roy Najecki clarified that the trail to be
maintained is grass and does not involve brush cutting so their
equipment choice is appropriate for the proposed use.**

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

**Town of Coventry- \$3000 Trail Improvement. Zilpha Foster Memorial
Park Trail.**

**The proposed project involves resurfacing a trail with Fibar to
improve drainage. Kevin Nelson stated that there was no map
included with the application but it appears that only ¼ mile of trail
will be improved, making it a very expensive project. He made a
motion to grant conditional approval pending a site inspection.
Denise Poyer modified the motion and proposed the grant request be
tabled to give the Grantee the opportunity to explain the grant to the
Committee. Meg Kerr seconded the motion to table the grant.
Approved.**

• Other Business

Denise Poyer reported that the education subcommittee, which includes Steve Church, herself, and Roy Najecki have not met yet to discuss education grants.

Next meeting: May 20, 2013 at 3:00.

**Denise Poyer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jay Aron.
Meeting adjourned 5:20.**