

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2014

USDA Conference Room

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 40

Warwick, RI 02886

In Attendance:

Gregg J. Cassidy RI DEM, Planning & Development

Peter Gengler International Mountain Bike Association

Roy Najecki RI Land Trust Council

Martha Cruciani Appalachian Mountain Club

Henry Cruciani Appalachian Mountain Club

Harvey Buford Hopkinton Land Trust

Gail A. Hogan Rhode Island Rifle & Revolver Association, Inc.

Steve Hogan Gun Owners Political Action Committee

Brian Knight Yankee Trailers

Jack Lancellota Pawtuxet River Authority

Steven Church RI DOT

Kevin Nelson RI Statewide Planning

Bob Butler NE Four Wheel Drive Club

Denise Poyer Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Sue Barker Greenways Alliance

Lisa Primiano RI DEM, Planning & Development

Meeting called to order at 3:01PM.

1. Meeting Minutes

Review of meeting minutes for the June 10th meeting will be deferred until the November 19th meeting.

2. Small Grant Requests

o Smithfield Land Trust. Mercer Lookout. \$3000.00. Roy Najecki provided some background on the project: the property, which was formerly a Boy Scout Camp, has a scenic overlook with potential

views to Somerset, MA. The vegetation was last cleared in 1998 but over twenty years of re-growth has now blocked the view. Steve Church mentioned that we can not reimburse them for the \$300.00 in costs that they have already incurred. Denise Poyer was concerned that cutting trees and applying herbicide to create an eight to ten foot wide trail seemed excessive. Roy Najecki pointed out that the trail building portion of the project is to gain equipment access to create the overlook. Peter Gengler stated that in the context of getting people outdoors a destination with a view is critical. There are not many in Rhode Island so he felt this project is an appropriate use of Trail Funds.

Kevin Nelson made a motion to approve the grant request provided the Land Trust agrees to a maintenance Plan to maintain the overlook, Bob Butler seconded the motion. Lisa Primiano mentioned that the Award Letter would request documentation from the Town agreeing to maintain the site within 60 days of receiving the Grant Award Letter. The Committee voted to approve the grant request, Denise Poyer opposed.

o Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. Snake Den Trailhead improvement. \$3000.00. Lisa outlined the project which would improve the trail head at Snake Den Park. The grant would buy materials; professional services would be their match. Roy Najecki pointed out that \$450.00 is in the budget for a brochure and maps and it is not clear if printing is an eligible expense. Lisa pointed out that

maps for trail safety are eligible and in the past the Committee has reimbursed for maps to use on a kiosk.

Denise Poyer made a motion to approve the grant request. Roy Najecki seconded the motion. Decision involved clarification that expenses for a map on the kiosk are eligible for reimbursement, not printing of maps. Unanimously Approved.

o Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. Snake Den Loop Trail improvement. \$1464.00. This project involves improving a 1.7 mile trail that originates at Snake Den Farm. Activities involve improving the trail, installing trail signs, as well as trail amenities. Trail improvements do not involve soil disturbance and the Award Letter will make it clear the Conservation District is responsible for any wetland permits. Kevin Nelson made a motion to approve the grant request provided that signage must meet FHWA standards. Seconded by Stephan Hogan. Unanimously Approved.

3. Other Business

Lisa asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to revise the Recreational Trail Grant Application Forms and to develop grant policies. This would involve several meetings, the first to be in September, as well as meeting before the regularly scheduled meeting (Nov. 18th). Interested parties should contact Gregg Cassidy.

**Motion to Adjourn made by Roy Najecki, seconded by Bob Butler.
Approved. Adjourn at 4:01.**

Next Meeting:

November 18, 2014 @ 3:00 PM

NRCS Conference Room

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 40

Warwick, RI 02888