

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Minutes of December 21, 2015 Meeting at Tiverton Library

Present: Ginger Lacy, Brian Janes, Garry Plunkett, Gayle Lawrence, Martin Van Hof, Phil Schuyler, Jean Paul Forcier

Guest: Michael Sarnowski

Call to order: 7:05 pm.

Administrative Announcements and Reports:

Minutes of 11/16/15 were reviewed. Motion to accept: Plunkett/Lawrence. Passed unanimously.

Plunkett presented Treasurer report prepared by Culberson (absent). Accepted.

Plunkett reported on the annual Tiverton High School class tour of Fort Barton and Weetamoo Woods. Size of class is growing each year – about 40 this year.

Plunkett also reported the initiation of an informal volunteer group who would meet monthly to do trails maintenance, possibly to be known as “Tiverton Trail Keepers.”

Janes reported on progress regarding the Grinnell Beach improvement plan.

Old Business:

Ft. Barton site sign options were discussed. The sign was rejected in favor of doing a stone carving on the granite face near the parking area. Van Hof reported on his conversation with Richard Benson, and Plunkett described the Albanese Monuments proposal. Consensus was that the high quality and reputation of Benson warranted spending more for his services, so Van Hof will request Benson do a site visit and prepare a written proposal.

New Business:

Revision of trail guides/trail marking was discussed. Agreement was reached to use numbered “waypoints” on trails that would be keyed to respective locations on trail guide maps. Possible sign designs, and options for their installation discussed. Lacy will investigate options for the trail markers, and Plunkett agreed to draft revisions to trail guides.

A proposal to allow private ATV access into open space areas for trails maintenance was discussed. Motion made to continue the existing motor vehicle policy as stated in the town ordinance, i.e.

prohibiting private ATVs on the trails: Schuyler/Lawrence. Passed unanimously.

Assistance with baseline documentation for new property acquisitions, offered by biologist Carol Trocki as part of a URI course, was discussed. Consensus was that the benefit of getting a template for this documentation, and professional input for its preparation was worth the fee involved. It was also agreed that it would be paid out of the acquisition account as a reimbursable expense for a required property acquisition document.

Stewardship Reports:

Guest, Mike Sarnowski, expressed his interest in getting involved with helping improve trail conditions, particularly with regard to wet areas on Weetamoo Woods that present obstacles to mountain bikers. Plunkett agreed to meet with him after the holidays and explore ways to address this issue.

Highland Woods – Plunkett discussed the need for entry signage, including entry, way-finding, and trailhead signs. He will draft wording to get that project started.

Ft. Barton – The remaining wire fencing abutting Highland Woods has been taken down, and DPW has agreed to haul it away. Many posts yet to be removed.

**Motion to go into Executive Session. Lawrence/Van Hof at 9:03 pm .
Passed unanimously.**

**Motion to close Executive Session. Schuyler/Van Hof at 9:21 pm.
Passed unanimously**

**Motion to adjourn: Janes/ Plunkett. Passed unanimously. Adjourned
at 9:23 pm.**

Recorded by Forcier.