

Next Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM

**Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport**  
Minutes of the Meeting of February 25, 2013  
*Approved*  
**Rockprt Town Hall**

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM, Phyllis Krenn presiding

**Members Present:**

Phyllis Krenn, Susan Thurson, Mary Devaney, Marc and Mary Prince, Jane Moginot, Tom Kerans, Marcia Siegel

**Members Absent:**

Bill Mueller

**Associate Members:**

**Guests:**

**Announcements:**

**Regarding ROW Quorum:**

Phyllis Krenn reported that as a result of confusion with Assistant Town Administrator and the By-law Committee, our request to have quorum number wording changed to "up to 9 members" will not appear on agenda for Spring Town Meeting. Phyllis will attempt to have it put on agenda for the Fall Town Meeting.

**Cathedral Rocks:**

Inquiry from wedding planner as to whether or not Cathedral Rocks is public or private resulted in discussion of location. Conclusion was that the area at the bottom of Reeds Lane to the Breakwater Avenue entrance opposite Emerson Inn near Atlantic Path sign is public.

**Rights of Way Booklets**

Toad Hall Bookstore wants to pay the FORROW for blue Rights of Way Booklets. Rose MacMullen, Treasurer of Friends of Rights of Way Committee, has moved. There is a question as to whether or not the Committee is still active.

Jane Moginot will pick them up. Books will be stored in our files.

**Previous Minutes:**

Minutes of 1/28/13 reviewed and corrected. Motion made and seconded to approve.

**Management Report:**

No change \$2304.00 in account.

**Cape Ann Trail Stewards:**

Meeting scheduled March 5, 2013, 6:00 PM, at Essex County Greenbelt Association

**Old Business:****Reeds Lane****Field Trip: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:00 PM**

Present: Phyllis Krenn, Marcia Siegel, Sue Thurson, Mary Devaney

Observations:

1. Path muddy and wet, flowing water.
2. Turnaround furniture removed. Vegetation overgrown and blocks access.
3. Unsightly brush debris on both sides of path
4. Alteration of the path considered but the group concluded it was impractical and a bad precedent.
5. Storm drain observed as having been cleared by Bill Mueller.

**Discussion:**

Sue Thurson has been in contact with Dave Rimmer of Land Stewardship, Essex County Greenbelt Association regarding restoration and preservation of the path and solving the runoff problem.

1. Solutions include digging diagonal trenches across the path and laying large pieces of rough gravel.
2. Sides of path could be planted with special grass to prevent erosion.
3. Sue will notify Committee members of date of site visit by Dave for further study and suggestions.

Phyllis Krenn discussed situation with Gerry Falco of ConCom.

There is a possibility of DPW putting down gravel.

Marcia Siegel requested written plan before any work is done on path or the turnaround.

Jane Moginot suggested widening the path to the left, going toward the ocean.

**Turnaround/Rest Area Discussion****Conclusions:**

1. We will consider naming the area "Ann's Arbor" in honor of Ann Sheinwald, founder of ROW.
2. Two comfortable benches with backs should be installed.
3. There should be two entrances, one from Reeds Lane, one from Atlantic Path.
4. Pruning, clearing, and additional plantings needed.

## **Atlantic Path**

### **Discussion**

1. Assistant Town Administrator Mitch Vierara has not sent letter to Mr. Curtis regarding removal of signs and removal of paint from rocks.
2. It was agreed process would be expedited if we provided a model letter.

### **Action:**

1. Marcia agreed to draft a letter which will be distributed to committee members.
2. If no objections are raised, the letter will be submitted to Mitch.

## **Hillside Road:**

### **Selectmen's Meeting:**

February 5, 2013

1. Hillside Road was not on the agenda as expected .
2. However, ROW members Phyllis Krenn, Jane Moginot, Tom Kerans, and Mary Devaney attended the meeting.
3. Email from Fire Warden Michael Fontiero was read by ROW member Tom Kerans at the meeting:

*I understand there was a Rights of Way Committee meeting recently about the situation between Blueberry Lane and Hillside Road. As the Forest Fire Warden for the Town, I would like to go on record as wanting this area passable for fire and other safety personnel. There are several fire roads in Town and I do not believe that any are allowed to be blocked, unless by a locked gate. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, I would really like to see this resolved, fire season will be here shortly.*

*Thank you,*

Mike Frontierro

Forest Fire Warden

### **Current Activity:**

1. Phyllis Krenn obtained legal documents from Joe Parady after the meeting.
2. Phyllis scanned them for Christina Wolfe to review.
3. Documents show that the Right of Way has been in use since at least 1974.
4. It is also documented as having been known as Lanesville Path on an 1892 map.
5. All abutters, including both Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, signed the Quit Claim deed acknowledging the right of way.

### **Conclusion:**

The Hillside Road situation continues to be a serious problem as far as the Rights of Way Committee is concerned.

1. An historic Right of Way would be eliminated.
2. The fire road is blocked causing a threat to public safety;
3. Abutters will have lost frontage access for which they pay taxes;
4. Recreational use and access to Blueberry Lane and the woods will have been eliminated;
5. A dangerous precedent will be set if the situation is allowed to stand.

## **Captain's/ Overseers Reports:**

### **Sign Situation:**

1. Atlantic Path Public Footpath sign ordered
2. Andrew's Woods with arrows sign ordered
3. Flat Rock Point sign is stored in the DPW barn

### **New Business:**

#### **Earth Day:**

Monday April 22, observed April 27, 2013

#### **Discussion:**

1. Coordination of Environmental Club and Cub Scouts needed.
2. Plans need to be made for clearing and pruning of Reeds Lane and the Atlantic Path.
3. Suggested involvement of ConCom.
4. Bill Mueller will not be here. Uncertain if Sue Thurson will.
5. Sue Thurson noted that Earth Day signs can be obtained from Cricket at the Essex County Greenbelt Website.

#### **Action:**

Plans will have to be firmed up at the March and April ROW meetings.

#### **Essex Heritage Website:**

1. Sue Thurson reported that the Heritage website has detailed information on the Essex county Coastal byway which includes Rockport.
2. There seems to be much commercial information, but the Atlantic Path and the Headlands which would be of interest to tourists and hikers were not mentioned.
3. Perhaps this could be remedied in the future.

Marc motioned to adjourn at 7:37 PM and the motion was seconded.

Next Regular Meeting:

Monday March 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM, Town Hall, Conf. Rm. A

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Devaney