

Next Meeting: Monday April 22, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport

Minutes of the Meeting of March 25, 2013

Approved

Rockport Town Hall

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM, Marc Prince presiding.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Associate Members: Ted Tarr present, Christina Wolfe absent

Guests: Nick Holland of Cape Ann Trail Stewards, Toby Arsenian, Zenas Seppala Merry Seppala

Announcements:

Presentation by Nick Holland of Cape Ann Trail Stewards

Nick gave a brief history of Cape Ann Trail Stewards and described its mission as follows.

1. Protect Maintain and Expand Recreational Trails
2. Manage relationships with Land owners
3. Identify projects
4. Provide manpower for trail projects.
5. Education and Seminars

He described the general situation of conservation on Cape Ann and stated that even though the greater part of municipally owned lands are in Rockport and Gloucester, both towns are underfunded and undermanned in regard to protection and maintenance. Therefore, they will be a focus of the group and its efforts. Website and social media will be primary sources of information.

Old Business:

Reeds Lane-CATS

Field Trip 3/13/2013

Nick Holland met with Mary Devaney, Sue Thurson and Marcia Siegel.

Kate Walton of CATS also attended. Kate worked for Essex County GreenBelt and is experienced in trail construction.

After discussing what they had observed, Nick and Kate concluded that a major problem is the organic soil which runs off the abutting properties. Possible solutions are water bars; diagonal trenches; seeding with native grasses; and using granite castoffs to armor the trail.

Nick will get back to us after making a few more inquiries. However, he stated that he considers this a project which we can successfully complete in cooperation with CATS.

Discussion of Nick Hollands preferred methods followed.

Conclusions:

1. We will wait for further recommendations.
2. We need a written plan before beginning work.
3. Supervised clearing can be done on Earth Day by Environmental Club.

Previous Minutes:

February 2012 Minutes were not sent to Committee members. Mary Devaney will send copies. Final approval will be made after review at next meeting.

Management Report:

No change. \$2304.00 in account.

Atlantic Path

Wait:

1. Further action needs to be taken by the town administrator.
2. Marcia Siegel drafted a letter to assistant town administrator.

Hillside Road:

Wait:

Phyllis Kren reported that since Joe Parady's lawyer sent documents directly to the town attorney, we cannot intervene but must wait for the two attorneys to communicate with each other.

Captain's/ Overseers Reports:

Signs In:

1. Atlantic Path Public Footpath sign came (bills submitted)
2. Andrew's Woods with arrows sign came
3. Flat Rock Point sign is stored in the DPW barn
4. Cathedral Rocks sign in

Bill offered to meet the DPW to make sure signs are in the right place. Contacts Chuck Osgood and Danny Rapp. Problems: frost in ground; missing standards for signs.

Atlantic Path:

Sue Thurson and Marcia Siegel reported on damage done by the storm to the Atlantic Path north of Reeds Lane.

Guest Toby Arsenian suggested piggy backing on Storm Relief FEMA grants from federal government and state.

Action:

Field Trip:

Cathedral Avenue Entrance

Sunday, March 31, 2013 10 AM

Attending:

Bill Mueller and Sue Thurson. Others welcome.

New Business:

Earth Day:

Plans for April 20, 2013

Plans:

Earth Day;

1. Cub Scouts will work at Andrews Woods
2. High School Environmental Club will work at Reeds Lane
3. All will meet at 6 Green Street, 10 AM
4. Boy Scouts will work at Halibut State Park

Essex Heritage Website:

Action:

Sue Thurson will contact Webmaster to suggest putting the Atlantic Path on the Rockport listings.

Cape Ann Tool Company:

Guests Toby Toby Arsenian, Zenas Seppala and Merry Seppala described plan by new owners which is totally different from the original plan approved by the town.

ROW committee members were shown maps and diagrams illustrating:

1. that public access is now restricted;
2. the park area has been eliminated;
3. the exit from to the public walkway, entered on Breakwater Avenue, requires crossing a public parking lot and is unsafe for hikers and dogwalkers

Marcia Siegel submitted newspaper announcement from DEP giving deadline of April 19, 2013 for public comments to be submitted.

Action:

Motion made and seconded for Marcia Siegel to draft for Phyllis Krenn.

1. Letter requesting public hearing to Alex Strycky of DEP.
2. Letter to Selectmen requesting that they request public hearings.

Marc Prince made motion to adjourn at 9:18 PM. Motion was seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting:

Monday April 22, 2013 at 7:00 PM, Town Hall, Conf. Rm. A

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Devaney