

Next Meeting: Monday June 23, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport
Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2014
Approved
Rockport Town Hall

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM, Tom Kerans presiding.

Members Present:

Matt Cegelis, Tom Kerans, Bill Mueller, Marcia Siegel, Jill Solomon, and Mary Devaney, Gil McCarthy, Jane Moginot, Phil Morrow

Members Absent:

Associate Members: Ted Tarr present, Phyllis Krenn

Guests:

Agenda:

Approval of April Minutes

Minutes of April 14, 2014 reviewed and approved.

Los Angeles

An email was sent to Mr. James offering a final courtesy walk before we clear the Los Angeles path. Mr. James called Selectman Erin Battistelli and Town Administrator Linda Saunders to complain about the email. Bill Mueller, Matt Cegelis, and Marcia Siegel will meet with Linda Sanders and Erin Powers Thursday at 9:00 AM to discuss the situation. The committee is hopeful that town officials will provide us with clear guidelines as to how to protect and maintain paper roads such as Los Angeles. Paper roads are town property. It is the responsibility of this committee to clear and maintain them.

Treasurers Report:

We have \$914.027 remaining.

Proposed expenditures:

Repair chainsaw.

Request Matt Natti do whatever he can toward clearing the Atlantic Path.

Bill will call Matt Natti regarding above, emphasizing that we have to have the bill before June 30, 2014.

ROW legal issues

We hope to get an opinion from the town counsel on the right to clear and improve town rights of way.

It was suggested that we have an educational powerpoint presentation such as ROW 101 or "What is a Right of Way".

Fundraising:

Jill Solomon brought up the need for fundraising. Phyllis reminded the committee that town committees cannot conduct their own fundraisers. Marcia suggested we start a new support group which can raise funds. Bill suggested we could start with the ROW volunteer list. One idea was to hold an educational event at Community House with music and food where participants could learn about rights of way. Gil described the success of an event in which rubber ducks were raced in the stream at Milbrook Park.

Permission from property owners

Matt Cegelis met with Carol Lloyd, Trail Maintenance Director of Essex County Trail Association, and Ed Becker, Director of Essex County Greenbelt Association, to discuss securing permissions from property owners

to publish maps showing trails that cross their property. Matt distributed sample liability and easement documents which could help educate property owners on the value of granting permission.

New Business:

Captains Reports

Marcia Siegal

In the South End at Cogswell Landing a tree is down at the trail head. There is debris on the trail and at the end. Emerson Point is full of poison ivy. Paths over the rocks are composed of large, awkwardly shaped stones, which make walking difficult. Flat Rock Point is in good shape, but the sign is missing. The town has acquired an empty lot near Cape Hedge Beach. It needs to be cleaned, but ConCom doesn't want anything done until they devise an overall plan.

Mary Devaney

The Briar Swamp Boardwalk is in disrepair. Many boards have rotted; part of the boardwalk is under water; and one section is upended, veering at a sharp angle. Representatives of Cape Ann Trail Stewards will visit the site to determine if they can restore the boardwalk.

Phyllis Krenn

The Boat Ramp sign is standing.

The Delamater sign is up.

On Bear Skin Neck, the Middle Wharf Right of Way is down. Apparently the Fish Shack received a Chapter 91 dispensation on the condition that they maintain a bench and sign. A bench was once there, but has disappeared. Sullivan's Ice Cream is doing landscaping and the the sign for Inner Park has been removed. We will see if sign goes back up when work is completed.

Gil McCarthy

At Delamater there is lots of poison ivy on the trail.

He will to take care of it. The trail up to the pasture is clear

Next meeting:

Monday, June 23, 2014 7:00 PM

Town Hall Conference Room A

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Devaney