

Next Meeting: Monday October 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport
Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2013
Rockport Town Hall, Room A
Approved

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

Members Present:

Tom Kerans, Bill Mueller, Marcia Siegel, Mary Devaney, Marc and Mary Prince, Jane Moginot

Members Absent:

Associate Members: Phyllis Krenn,

Guests: Matt Cegelis, (24 School Street), Jill Solomon (15D High Street)

Nick Senzamici (13 Phillips Avenue)

Announcements:

Matt Cegelis reported on his meeting with the Selectmen. Vote will be in two weeks.

Quorum

Wording on the issue was approved at the last town meeting.

Minutes of 8/26/2013

Corrected and Approved.

Management Report

Marc wishes to request additional funds from the Finance Committee. At present, all of our money is going to clearing the Atlantic Path. We are still awaiting a complete estimate from Matt Natti. Marc expects to have the estimate in time for the October meeting. We only need one bid if the amount is under \$5000.

Old Business

Nick Senzamici (13 Phillips Avenue) brought up a concern he and his neighbors have regarding Cathedral Rocks. Apparently, while discussing a question regarding a proposed wedding, the Rights of Way Committee stated that Cathedral Rocks is owned by the town.

The February minutes recording this discussion left the impression that the entire area is public. It is not. The Committee agreed to correct this by stating that parcels numbered 15-33 only, at the base of Cathedral Avenue, are owned by the town and open to the public. The rocks from that point to Reeds Lane are privately owned and are not open to the public.

Reeds Lane

Work is going well. Eight volunteers on Saturday clipped and raked chips. The Lane is almost clear enough for a DPW truck to pick up brush piles.

Public Footpaths off Phillips Avenue

Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento are all paper roads which show as red and pink on the assessors map. They run parallel to each other. All are overgrown and signs are missing. Phyllis said that the DPW was once responsible for keeping the paths clear. Due to our limited resources, we wish get the DPW involved in clearing once again. Tom agreed to be DPW liason.

Matt and Bill agreed meet at the DPW shed.

Los Angeles

Bill Mueller met with Christina Wolfe. Her legal information was compared with that of Bill James' attorney. Christina says Los Angeles is definitely a town owned Right of Way. Bill Mueller walked with Bill James. Mr. James was accomodating and agreed to the clearing of a 5 to 10 foot path. Mr. James also offered to get his surveyor to come back and mark the center line. The other abutter at the meeting, John, also was in accord. No one wants to cut down the big trees which have grown in the path.

Atlantic Path

The Path still needs some work.

There is a washout at an area called Chapin's Gulley. Matt, Ted and Bill talked with abutting homeowners. Bill got rid of rubble and built steps.

Hooper Property

Ted Tarr continues to be concerned that no action has been taken on trying to redirect the Right of Way on the Hooper Property. No one knows who actually owns the property right now. Ted believes we must act quickly or lose the opportunity to connect this area with the Atlantic Path and make the trail continuous to Halibut Point.

Pigeon Hill Association/ Steel Derrick Trails

Mary walked the are with Nick Holland of CATS and discussed the issues. It seems prudent to leave the reported restrictions issue alone until we know where we stand legally. Also, there is a growing initiative to keep the entire woods area trails continuous. It may be best to approach the Association in that context.

Delamater Sanctuary

Marcia walked the area last fall with Sue. She said the trails were not marked, and she and Sue became lost and could not find their way back to the Borzakian entrance on South Street. Phyllis said Gil McCarthy has GPS records and has been working on the trails. She suggested that Marcia contact Gil and request his records. Marcia agreed to contact Gil.

Kieran Preserve

Ted Tarr has cleared the trail from Straitsmouth to Sheltand.

Volunteers:

Bill Mueller has been contacting people and organizations. He has compiled a list of volunteers which can be used as a broadcast email to request help when projects are scheduled.

Listed as Friends of the Rights of Way Committee:

Cub Scouts and leaders

Girl Scouts and leaders

Green Scholars at Rockport High School (formerly the Environmental Club)

Coast Sweep, a project to clean up beaches, leader Sarah Visnick

Green Explorers at the Elementary School, leader Erin Caniff

Individual volunteers

Bill suggested that we have visitors to our meetings sign up to be on the list.

He also suggested we contact neighbors and abutters to the properties for which we are responsible .

Hillside Road

Boulders and the wall are gone. There is now complete access to the road. No one was able to reach Joe Parady to find out how this came about. We still need to decide what to do about the overgrown Right of Way path.

Rum Rock Lake

A No Trespassing sign at Rum Rock Lake near Near Cape Pond was reported by Gil and Matt. We need more information.

Administrative Meeting

We discussed when to have an administrative meeting regarding our plans and finances. It was suggested that we have it before our regular monthly meeting, perhaps at 6:30. This seemed agreeable to all. There was no general support for holding meetings outside of our regular schedule.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

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Monday, October 28, 7:00 PM, Town Hall, Conf. Rm. A

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Devaney