

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport
Minutes of the Meeting of August 22, 2016
Rockport Town Hall
Approved Minutes

The meeting called to order at 7:07 PM, Tom Kerans presiding.

Members Present:

Tom Kerans, Mary Devaney, Lori Morrow, Phil Morrow, Tom Mikus

Members Absent:

Jill Solomon

Attendees: Phyllis Krenn, Ted Tarr

Previous Minutes

Minutes of July 18, 2016 were reviewed and minor corrections made.

Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed with one abstention by Tom Mikus who was not present at the July meeting.

GIS Mapping

The Committee discussed the town's current GIS project to update documentation for boundaries, public paths, and rights of way. Since we have many files documenting court cases and legal decisions which might not be available to Matt Barrett who is in charge of the project, ROW members will meet with him and provide our information to insure that the results are accurate. Also, Tom K. will invite Peter Vandermark and Larry Neal of Rockport Open Space and Recreation and Conservation to come to our next meeting so we can exchange relevant information with them on the project.

Areas of specific concern for us are Hillside Road, the right of way which has been rerouted and is the subject of a scrivener's error; Cathedral Avenue which has illegal signage posted; the Andrews Woods/California Paths which have become overgrown and blocked, including a paper road. We need to clarify who is responsible for what on the Delamater, Keiran, Headlands, Sea Rocks, and Cathedral Avenue properties.

A field trip is scheduled for Thursday, 5:30 PM, August 25. We will meet at Reeds Lane.

Woodland Acres Property

Ted Tarr reported that the Woodland Acres property proposal, which we supported along with the Conservation and Open Space Committee, was not heard by the Selectmen. We do not know the reason. This is unfortunate because the property abuts the Curtis Street conservation area trails and Blueberry Lane. It connects loops connected to Gloucester's North Woods Project and Greenbelt properties. It also will have an effect on the Friends of Dogtown's effort to have Dogtown named a national historic site. We will try to pursue this.

Reeds Lane

Complaints have been received that abutters continue to dump landscaping debris on Reeds Lane, a town owned road. A four or five feet tall pile is narrowing the public road and partially blocking the path. It is unsightly and high enough to be seen from Phillips Avenue. Since dumping on town property is illegal, Tom K. will consult with the town administrator.

California Paths

A complaint was received stating that next to the public path sign on Oakland, a driveway has been constructed over the Oakland Path. A no trespassing sign has been put up. Mary Devaney stated that she had driven by the site while monitoring the paths and seen the driveway and no trespassing sign. She offered to contact Matt Barrett of GIS/DPW to see what the situation is.

Signage

Mary distributed examples of Essex County Greenbelt signs which encourage visitors to respect owners' properties. We would have to create our own since the Greenbelt signs have their name on them.

Community Preservation Funds

Tom M. will write a grant, under their guidelines, requesting funds for the purpose of making the Atlantic Path more accessible. Tom M. will contact Matt Natti regarding possibilities and price.

Tool Company/Rausio

Tom M. received an inquiry from Maureen McCarthy who would like to walk the right of way now that the construction equipment has been removed. Our information is that the Chapter 91 application is still under review. There is a concern about safety and liability while the property is being developed and issues of access are unresolved.

Management Report

No reports have been generated this fiscal year

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday September 26, 2016
7:00 PM Town Hall Conference Room A**

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Devaney
Secretary**