

LINEAR PARK GREENWAY AND TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

MAY 23, 2017 6:00 PM

Charlestown Town Hall – Annex Room

4540 South County Trail

Charlestown, RI 02813

CALL TO ORDER – Faith LaBossiere

ROLL CALL

Faith Labossiere, Vicky Hilton, Tim Quillen, Bill Wilson, Bonnie Van Slyke, Jonathan Hammett, Ed Vazquez, and Jennifer Demirs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 1, 2017 MEETING

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED OR SENT

1. Vicky Hilton, P&R Director reports as of right now there are multiple 5K's being held by Town organizations. There will be a 5K September 22nd to commemorate Tarzan Brown a Narragansett Indian who won the Boston Marathon twice and it's his birthday and Frosty Drew will hold a story telling session by an Elder of the tribe and all the money made will be put in a scholarship fund for Narragansett Tribal Youth in Parks and Recreational Programs.

2. Vicky Hilton states right now all time and energy is being spent on the town beaches, hundreds of kids at camp, supervising summer and town staff, special events and programs for summer. Planning for the fall has also started.

3. The first Block Party at Columbia Heights is to be held at the Clark Memorial Field is scheduled for Saturday June 17th.

4. New Pickle Ball court in use and are painted on regular tennis courts.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bike Safety Day, was on Saturday May 13, 2017. Ray DeFalco did a great job organizing this event, the weather did not cooperate therefore there was a low turnout of participants. The families that did show up had a great time doing the obstacle course and the treasure hunt along the new trail and ending with eating lots of popsicles? NBX volunteered their time again for bicycle checks, thank you! Jennifer and Stuart Demirs donated to help put on this event. It was suggested that there should be better signage next year for this event.

We may ask the police department if we could use their electronic sign to promote this event next year as well.

The idea was brought up to see if we should open this up to adults to participate next year. Ray DeFalco will be consulted on this, as well as changing the date to sometime in the summer when camps are in session.

2. Report on Tuesday's Walker's on the New Trail

May 2nd 1 walker, May 9th 3 walkers, May 16th 6 walkers. The word is getting out and hopefully more will be joining!

3. Report on Paths to Progress meeting May 23rd Faith attended in Providence.

4. Report of Cost of Feasibility Studies:

Bradford Associate reports: Without a formal RFP scope of services a figure based on previous bikeway feasibility studies based on use of town GIS data they would anticipate consultant costs of \$15,000 for the two mile on road and \$35,000 for the 1-2 mile off road with the total for bike route from Ninigret Park to the post office of approximately \$50,000.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 20K-25K for 2.3 mile.

URI Planning Department: we are on their list for 2018.

Ed Vazquez reports on Feasibility Study: There are 70 miles of town roads.

No town roads are labeled as bike safety or friendly, no marks or id's for bike lane.

Not enough road width ex. historic stone walls cannot be removed, however they may be moved with permit. Nationalgrid is very expensive to move telephone poles. Once you make a walking/bike lane it has to be ADA compliant 10 to 15 feet wide. In order to make roads designated as a Bike Safe Road or include a bike lane the town may have to take property from residents via eminent domain. If the town makes roads as bike safe or creates a bike lane, then the town is responsible for all maintenance of the lane and is liable for any issues bike related that may happen on the road.

The state will not put a bike lane on Route 1 because they do not want to be liable for any bikers.

Newport now has bike signs on their roads; Ed is willing to contact Newport to gather information on their bike lanes and will report back.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TIP Program, DOT has a 10 year plan.
2. We will ask Jane Weidman for her assistance to help with the reapplication process.
3. Jonathan Hammett suggests a Charlestown Loop to include hitting Historical areas in town to attract visitors from other states. Possibly a map could be made to include trails for biking, hiking and walking to include the North South Trails. Jonathan will sketch out a map to show an idea.
4. Ed Vazquez adds he will inquire with local organizations, Land Trusts to find the open spaces for usage walking, bikes etc.
5. Signage was also discussed.
6. The Charlestown's Farmer's Market – we can join in again this year to get more exposure.

The next Linear Park Greenway and Trails Sub-Committee meeting is June 27, 2017 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Faith LaBossiere adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Demirs filling in as secretary for Sherry Drude.