

Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan

Stakeholders Meeting

Public Benefit Conveyance property: management and trails connections to community and Brunswick Landing

Meeting NOTES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

2 – 3:30 PM, Brunswick Station, 16 Station Avenue, Municipal Meeting Room, 2nd floor

Present: Suzan Wilson, Charlie Frizzle, Kurt Stinson, Amanda Bunker, Angela Twitchell, Jeff Ward, Benet Pols, Denise Clavette, Tom Farrell, Anna Breinich, Catherine Ferdinand, Bob Rocheleau, Kristi Hatrick, Bruce Kidman, Tony Barrett, Fred Koerber, Steve Walker, several members of the public

Public Benefit Conveyance update

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, communicated with the Town of Brunswick that the Town will be receiving a letter soon requesting the Town to accept the rights and responsibilities for several parcels, including REC-7. This agreement would be in place until the final deeds for the parcels are transferred to the Town (timeline can extend to a year). The Town Council will need to formally accept the rights and responsibilities for the parcels. The Town anticipates that Building 211 will be in the upcoming FOST (Finding of Suitability to Transfer) and that the Town will begin to manage the building at some point in 2013.

Trails report

Lester Kenway of Trail Services, Inc. finished his field review of REC-7 and submitted his report to the Town. Lester walked all trails recommended by the Trails Group, flagged them (blue), and suggested modifications. On the east side of the estuary, Lester recommends the trail going up the middle, be located off existing jeep tracks. The jeep route is too rutted and wet to develop a good trail.

In addition to flagging the trails, Lester submitted a report showing a work plan for trail development, in specific segments along with associated labor and materials cost estimates. The total trail system in REC-7 will be about 7 miles, with an estimated cost of \$45,000. This would be for a hiking-only system on the east side (with possible upgrades to shared use trails in the future), shared use trails on the former perimeter road and its branch, and a hiking trail connecting the two on the west side.

Draft RTOS Management Plan Review

The stakeholders group reviewed most sections of the draft plan, with special attention to the highlighted discussion points:

- In management principles, there was discussion about “preserve” vs. “conserve”. Preference was for “conserve” since most of the land will include trails and other management. Language will be corrected to reflect change.
- P 6 Delete zoning ordinance section, it is already addressed in another section/
- P 7 Clarify “growth area” since the 66 acres is outside of the growth area
- P 8 Clarify that the Town was settled earlier than Rec 7
 - Tell the history of Mair/Mere/Mare as a footnote
- P 10 Need to look into whether or not the Town is allowed to house archaeological records
 - If land disturbance protocols are called for, how would the Town enforce? Define “ground disturbance”. The Town has some standards related to development review.

- Some areas should be identified for preservation but the rest is not a preserve.
- Reframe B, C and D (State has laws about ground disturbance). Anna and Fred will work on this.
- Add actions for interpreting the history.
- P 13 Add universal access to principles
 - In some cases the existing trails are not as good a choice as creating a new trail
 - Add “where practical” to the goal of universal access
 - 3rd bullet not necessary. Question: why do we have to say that we’ll follow local zoning rules? But if we keep this, add state and federal. (Foot trails are allowed in the Shoreland Zone.)
 - We cannot grant ourselves an exception for structures
- P 30 Add emergency vehicles
 - Simplify dog waste section – simply say “it is required that all dog waste be picked up and disposed of properly.”
 - It is unreasonable to ask for no hunting 300 feet either side of all trails. We saw a map showing those corridors and it left very little other land. The Management Group will reconsider a hunting recommendation, in consultation with Mark Latti. Possibly hunting by permission only, a required hunter safety course, and signs posted for hunters and non-hunters during hunting season.
 - A public comment: There need to be signs warning the public about the possibility of unexploded ordinance.
- P 31 What about elver and smelt fishing? This should be addressed in the plan.
 - A public comment: abutters should have some input on signs related to fences.
 - We should look at how the proposed trails relate to the fences and be mindful of property owner privacy when deciding which fences to remove and when. How can we help maintain privacy for adjacent landowners?

Next Steps

Next meeting will be scheduled for late January, confirmation of the date, time and room availability will be sent out.