

# **Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan**

## **Stakeholders Meeting Minutes**

For Public Benefit Conveyance property: trail connections to community and Brunswick Landing

Thursday, September 13, 2012

2:30 – 4 PM, Curtis Memorial Library, Seminar Room

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Present: Bob Rocheleau, Kurt Stinson, Catherine Ferdinand, Benet Pols, Tony Barrett, Charlie Frizzle, Fred Koerber, Denise Clavette, Tom Farrell, Kristi Hatrick, Dan Devereaux, Angela Twitchell, Steve Walker, Jeff Ward, Anna Breinich, Suzan Wilson, Amanda Bunker, Julie Isbill

### **1. Public Benefit Conveyance update**

By the end of September the Navy expects to convey to the National Park Service, REC- 2, 3 and 4 (64.88 acres), REC-7 (591.38 acres) and REC-1 (68.02 acres). We expect the Department of the Interior, National Park Service to send a letter to the Town asking if they would take “constructive possession” of the properties until the transfer can be completed. This was the same process for conveyance of the 66 acres in east Brunswick. The process requires the Town Council to approve constructive possession (which means that the Town would accept most rights and responsibilities for the property). Once the Town has constructive possession of REC- 7, Fred and the students can get onto the property for site visits to historical sites.

### **2. Updated RTOS Management Plan timeline & process**

Completion of the draft plan for REC-7 and the perimeter trail recommendation will now be scheduled for March or April 2013.

### **3. Abutter / Public Meeting Tuesday, September 18**

5:30 – 7 PM at Harriet Beecher Stowe Gymnasium

A few calls were received by Town staff after the abutter letter went out. The Stakeholder group reviewed and modified a draft agenda for the public meeting. An update on the project will be provided at the meeting, and an opportunity for question and answers. Further discussions between the public and members of the Stakeholder group will be set up at four stations.

### **4. Trail Consultant Report – Lester Kenway**

Lester was hired by the Town to assess REC-7 proposed trails and flag them, and make recommendations for modifications. He used 1” blue flagging tape placed at eye level. Lester commented that the land is surprisingly wild, and the estuary is the top attraction. He used a “deficiency based system”, that is, an inventory of need. With a GPS unit, Lester marked the locations for all needed improvements (bridges, bog walks, etc.), and will deliver a report/spreadsheet with that information, including cost estimates for bringing the trails up to the standards we have described for shared use and footpaths. Lester noted that a lot of the trails on the west side simply need mowing with a ditch/bank mower (approx. \$65/hour) and trail surfacing in some areas.

The old perimeter road on the east side has many trees growing in it. These need to be cleared with a bush hog or chain saw. Then the stumps will remain so the road bed should be resurfaced with 6" of gravel spread and shaped with a York rake. Wherever there are wet soils, geotextile needs to be laid down under new gravel.

The Maine Conservation Corps would be ideal for creating footpaths. MCC accepts proposals now until December for the 2013 season with projects scheduled in March. MCC projects are usually connected to Recreational Trails Program funding. Might be able to get volunteers to clear trees off of perimeter road. Town has equipment to replace culverts. The timing of this year's funding cycle will not coincide with conveyance.

Our plan has trails on the property boundary because we are taking advantage of the existing perimeter road bed. This will need to be reviewed further.

We will need a wetland delineation for the trail corridors in preparation for permitting by the State of the trail work. Steve Walker will help with that. 4,300 square feet per project of disturbance of wetlands is allowed. More than that will require a more extensive permit. Culvert replacement also requires a permit.

## **5. Management Issues**

We are thinking that hunting regulations should be the same as those currently in place in the area surrounding the base: shotgun, black powder and bow hunting. Trapping with a permit from Town. There are a lot of deer on the base so hunting is needed, at least at first. Maybe allow horses on some trails since there are abutters with horses. No camping for now but maybe later (there will not be any drinking wells on the property due to contamination). The plan will have language allowing for future adjustments. What if the property becomes a big trail destination like Bradbury? Interest has been expressed for mountain biking.

## **6. Next Steps**

Schedule a walk with Steve Walker to flag wetlands on trail corridors.