

Guilford Conservation Commission
Land Stewardship Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 2, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
Community Center, Leete Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Doug Clark

Member Present: Doug Clark (chairperson), Paul Mei, Phil Regas, Heather Allore (secretary), George Goss, and Lynn Saiers

Excused: Dave Bell

Alternates present: Rob Musterer

Alternate absent:

Staff: Kevin Magee, Michelle Nazario

Land Steward: Gillian Carroll

Guest: Sally Whiteman

2. Approval of Agenda

H. Allore made motion to approve agenda that was seconded by P. Regas. It was unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes March 7, 2016

Approval of Minutes: P. Regas made a motion to approve meeting minutes from March 7, 2016. The motion was seconded by P. Mei and was approved once updates have been correct.

4. Public Forum
None

5. Chairperson's Report

- a. Work Party – Timberlands – March 19 (Lynn, Phil, Doug, Dave)
- b. Work Party – Braemore – April 16 (Dave, Phil, Rob, Doug, Andy)
- c. Mini work party – Timberlands – April 22 (Earth day – Phil & Doug)

6. Environmental Planner's Report

K. Magee

a. Budget - Kevin Magee stated that there is approximately \$1,700 in the budget, there are some big ticket items that cannot be purchased because there isn't enough money left in the budget for this year and the budget has not been passed for fiscal year 2016-17.

b. Land Stewards – Gillian Carroll – Land Steward updated the commission on the clean-up of trails. She stated that there are trails that are being created and notification has been posted with brush and fencing blocking the trails but they have been ripped down and removed. The blocking off of the trails is to protect the habitat of the turtles and other species. Kevin Magee is walking the site with a special meeting of the Conservation Commission on May 17, 2016 at 5:30pm to evaluate the area.

Kevin Magee is looking to secure the Crooked Hill Road gate. It has been picked up and moved sideways for vehicles to get through, this is in the area of the Bridle Trail. Kevin Magee dropped woodchips to be distributed in the wet areas dug up by the vehicles. A chain has been installed to prevent the gate from being opened.

Gillian Carroll reported that there was dog fight between a malamute and a sheltie. The malamute was not on a leash and attacked the sheltie. The boy of the malamute tried breaking up the fight and was hurt in the process. The police department and animal control are investigating the attack. This is the first reported problem of the malamute on town property.

It was asked if it should be put in the Guilford courier. Kevin Magee will talk to the dog warden.

7. GCC & CFPA Liaison Reports

P. Mei

a. “Mattabesett junction Conservation & Recreation Area”

b. National Trails Day

P. Mei brought up the discussion regarding the biking on the trails that connect through from Guilford from Madison. Paul is concerned since the wet meadow is a sensitive habitat and it can be intimidating when you are hiking and a bike is coming at you on a trail. A statement was said that an associate from the Bike Association will maintain the trails and the hikers will have the right of way. P. Mei stated that there are 20 miles of bike trails in Rockland Preserves in Madison and the Pisgah Conservation area in Durham.

P. Regas made a motion not to accept the invitation to become part of Mattabesett Junction Regional Map. The motion was seconded by G. Goss and was unanimously approved.

There is a concern on how to manage the mountain bikers and emergencies that could take place with public safety getting to them.

H. Allore asked about the boundary trails in Madison and Guilford and this meets up with the Braemore’s red trail. A trail has been created but unsure if it is a hiking trail or a biking trail.

P. Mei stated this is part of the Rockland Preserve Nature Trail that he believes was approved several years ago.

P. Regas made a motion for no mountain biking in all of Braemore and its trails. The motion was seconded by P. Mei and was unanimously approved.

P. Regas stated that it is for the greater good for the trails, protection of the habitat and the environment.

D. Clark asked about signage for prohibited biking in all of Braemore.

H. Allore made a motion for no biking signage and fencing which can block bikes to be installed on the Durham Rd and Crooked Hill entrance. The motion was seconded by P. Regas and was unanimously approved along at the trail entrance from the Rockland Preserve

8. Trail/section reports

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Braemore | D. Clark, P. Regas |
| b. Timberlands | D. Clark, L. Sainers, P. Regas |
| c. East River Preserve | |

9. Upcoming work parties

D. Clark spoke about a work party at the New England Trail for the white trail near Rt 80. – No date was set

Gillian will focus on the white trail at Timberland – white x to Orange
No date was set

- a. May 21 – D. Clark stated that there is a CFPA trail work shop that he will be attending but there still can be a work party
- b. June 18 -

10. Other Business: news, events, suggestions, new agenda items, etc. – No report
Kevin Magee stated Gillian Carroll is working on a new Braemore Map for Meyerhuber Preserves.

P. Mei stated there are bags of dog feces that are thrown in the woods off the trails on the New England Trail.

L. Sainers brought up the idea to have a form on Guilford's website for people to report a trail problem along with location. Also a form will be created to track what tasks are being done and on which trail. L. Sainers will look into how to put it on the website and pass the link around.

c. Sally Whiteman – Alternate

G. Goss made a motion to recommend Sally Whiteman as an alternate. The motion was seconded by P. Regas and was approved.

P.Regas stated that CFPA has a paper form as well on their website that we can use and possibly changed into a digital format.

Kevin Magee attended a Land Trust conference that had discussed some options of helping with data and maps, Track Kit and MapLets are two applications that could be assigned with mapping. The Track Kit application may work best for the group. It cost \$3.00 at the Apple Store and is free for Android phones.

11. Adjournment

Adjournment: Then, with no further business before it, upon a motion H. Allore and seconded by P. Mei which was unanimously voted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Nazario

The next meeting of the LSC will be Monday, July 11, 2016