

Minutes for St. George Fort Point Ad Hoc Committee Meeting held on Thursday January 21, 2021

Attendance: Members: Ken Oelberger, Tim Polky, Jerry Hall, Dale Pierson, Tom Gorrill

Announcements: Ken reported John Falla has resigned to make room for someone else on the Committee

Modifications to Agenda: None

Approval of January 7, 2021 Minutes: The minutes of December 7 (moved by Jerry, Dale 2nd.)

Old Business

1. Actions from Recommendations to the Select Board- The Ad-Hoc Committee reviewed each of the recommended actions:

A1-Obtain a survey of the trail property to properly identify boundaries-Tim said this is a Town Manager responsibility and he feels a survey should be done for all Town properties. He said funds may be available under the Town's contract services budget in addition to the Conservation Commission funds for this work. Tim asked if any of the donations or pledges could be put toward this work. Dale agreed to check with John on this, however, the consensus of the Ad-Hoc committee was that the donations/pledges should be allocated to physical trail improvements. Tim suggested that we update the abutters on the schedule for the survey at our next meeting with them. The Committee asked Tom to contact Gartley and Dorsky to ask them to proceed with the work and to request a schedule. Tim will sign and return the contract to Gartley and Dorsky.

A2-Provide screening or signage to mark property boundaries- The Ad Hoc committee agreed to explore appropriate signage to notifying the public of private property boundaries. Tim noted that the boundary survey will inform this process. Ken agreed to collect photos of the types of signs that may be appropriate for the committee's consideration.

A3-Provide signage to clearly mark the trail's parking area and access point- The Committee agreed to develop recommendations to limit parking to the

designated areas and prohibit parking in or across residential driveways. It was pointed out that the parking issues may not be directly related to the trail. Potential ideas will be discussed at the Abutters meeting.

A4-Take appropriate actions to discourage unwanted activities in the parking area- Tim commented that most of these occur at night. Providing lighting for the lot was discussed. Tim pointed out that there may be a concern with light pollution. Dale suggested a motion sensor, and some members felt having a light going on and off may be a concern. Dale asked about a gate. The Committee felt there could be operational issues with a gate. The Committee agreed these alternatives should be discussed at the next Abutters meeting.

A5-Adopt appropriate policies and actions to provide for a clean and attractive trash-free area- Ken suggested a carry in/carry out sign should be posted. An alternative of providing trash receptacles similar to those used at Drift Inn Beach and the Ballfield was discussed but was not recommended. Instead it was recommended that the Conservation Commission could do a weekly sweep of the area and Ken agreed to discuss this with the CC. Tom noted that other land trusts have had some success with installing game cameras in areas where alternative measures have not been successful.

A6-Adopt appropriate policies and actions to provide for daytime only use of the trail property- The Committee agreed a sign should be posted of the trail hours of operation. This is currently done by the Town at the Marshall Point Lighthouse. It was noted that some people may not respect the sign.

A7-Provide communications with abutters relative to actions in response to their concerns. The committee scheduled a meeting for January 30th at 10:00 AM in the Fort Point Parking lot. Ken will prepare a draft meeting notice to circulate to the committee for comment. Tim noted that Laurie Paulsen had agreed to join the Committee to represent the neighborhood and will check with

her that she can make our next meeting at 9:00 AM on February 4th. Jerry agreed to lead the January 30th Abutters meeting.

A8-Suspend action of the Fort Point Trail Ad-Hoc Committee pending further direction from the Select Board. The Committee agreed that the neighborhood concerns with the existing trail need to be addressed before improvements are made to the trail.

A9-Charge the Conservation Commission with investigating approaches for maintenance and improvement of the Fort Point Trail that does not preclude future implementation of a UA trail- Ken asked for thoughts on how the Conservation Commission (CC) should proceed. Jerry said he is not in favor of proceeding with the original plan. He thinks that there are too many funding and procedural unknowns in developing a UA trail including the State land and he said we want to be sensitive to the neighbor's concerns. Ken pointed out that a phased approach will require more funding from the Town over time. Tom also commented that most of the Town residents have not had the opportunity to comment on the trail. After discussion, a consensus evolved to suggest to the CC that the trail should be repaired in phases with the highest need being a new bridge and approaches. Dale Pierson will contact Scott Hodgkins to request he draft a letter that could be sent by the Town Manager to the Bureau of Parks and Lands relative to his concern about the wear on the embankment on the State property.

2. Survey & Design Contract- Tom will contact Gartley and Dorsky to request a copy of the wetland mapping they completed. Tom will inform them that the Town would like to accept the proposal for the boundary survey they submitted to Tim and request a schedule. It was also requested that Tom let them know that we are working with the neighborhood to address their concerns regarding the impacts of the existing trail before proceeding with any more work on developing plans for improvements to the

trail. However, it is likely that when planning resumes, the focus will be on phased trail safety improvements and likely not include any upgrades to the State property.

3. DOT parking- Tom will follow up with Larry Johannesman to see how he is coming along with alternative conceptual layouts on the parking lot to improve circulation.

4. Follow up with BPL- It was agreed that Tom should follow up with the BPL on the status of the project and that we will not be pursuing a UA project incorporating the State land. He will also ask about their access agreement with the Paulsen's

New Business

1. Communications- Tim recommended that an update on the project status be included in the Town's newsletter. Dale agreed to speak with John Falla about the status of the donations that were made toward the project and how we should communicate with them. Ken agreed to update the GRLT and MCHT.

Next Meetings: Abutters meeting: Saturday, January 30th at 10:00 AM

Ad-Hoc meeting: Thursday, February 4th at 9:00 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM