

Town of Concord
Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Sally Schnitzer
Polly Reeve
Neil Rasmussen
Peter Siebert
Kathryn Angell
Bonnie Pohlig
Justin King
Jeff Adams
Lisa Pohl

Also present: Nick D'Arbeloff, Carlisle liaison, non-voting
Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director

Public Present: David Santomenna, Trustees of Reservations
Herman Leonard

1. Minutes for September 29, 2016 meeting were discussed. Two amendments were suggested and the minutes were approved as amended.
2. No correspondence had been received since the last meeting
3. Administrative matters: upcoming meetings
 - a. The Public Hearing will be held on the 24th. We will deliver a PowerPoint presentation covering our purpose, process, and learnings, and will present and distributed a draft summary of our recommendations, and will seek public input and feedback. Our primary purpose will be one of listening carefully, and we will be open to modifying our recommendations after hearing feedback. We may need to respond to questions or clarify misunderstandings, but our primary purpose will be active listening. Delia suggested preparing a list of likely questions and discussing responses as a committee before the hearing.
 - b. Kathy brought to the attention of the chairs that the website needs to be updated with upcoming meetings. Sally noted that the website has been

redesigned and some material is still in the process of being converted. She has submitted all upcoming dates and will check on this.

- c. Sally asked Jane if the Select Board had approved a timeframe extension for the committee's work. Jane will check.
4. Discussion of Recommendations and Report
- a. Numerous edits to the text were suggested. Some of these were proposed in order to emphasize the responsibilities of landowners as well as visitors and the town, both in the general recommendations and specifically under Estabrook Road, and including the mention of the potential need for additional fencing. The date of the imposition of temporary parking restrictions was stated to be fall of 2105.
 - b. It was suggested that the report mention the suggestion of a Friends group or another entity to implement and/or advocate for improvements in the Woods after the committee has been disbanded.
 - c. It was noted that Middlesex School was not discussed in the report, and language was suggested.
 - d. Estabrook Road
 - 1. A footnote should be added to state that there is not clear consensus among committee members as to the ideal number of parking spaces on Estabrook Road. It was felt that all the scenarios reviewed at our previous meeting should be mentioned, with results of the poll.
 - 2. Kathy Angell distributed a memo asking the committee to continue discussion about recommending the restoration of additional parking spaces at Estabrook Road.
 - 3. There was a discussion about the idea of recommending temporary additional parking on Estabrook Road while other measures, such as parking at Punkatasset were being explored and implemented. Justin King emphasized the need to work with neighbors.
 - e. Monument Farm
 - 1. Sally had distributed a memo by email expressing her concerns about adding formal parking at Monument Farm Road and

asking the committee to consider a recommendation for assessment by the NRC, including working with neighbors, and the development of a management plan, while higher priority recommendations are being implemented.

2. This access point is actually attractive because it is remote. Some people prefer solitude in the woods and it was suggested that the report present this quality as a benefit.

f. Priorities

1. It became clear that there are still some areas where we do not agree, but there are also many things that we do agree on. Can we establish some highest level priorities that we can all agree on? Many committee members expressed the opinion that gaining more parking at Punkatassetts should be the highest priority. Others pointed out that securing public access at Estabrook Road has been stated to be our highest priority. It was suggested that we could name these twin highest priorities as both being very important.
2. Jane encouraged the committee make priorities very clear and emphatic, especially those involving the expenditure for town funds, which will have to go through various steps to be allocated.

g. More next time

1. We will meet again in a week. Everyone should read Kathy and Sally's memos carefully and come with formed opinions on these matters. Polly and Sally will compose and send out in advance a few alternative recommendations or scenarios, and we will vote on them.
2. Sally thanked the committee for all the respect and commitment all members have shown. While we disagree on some issues, we agree on a lot and we are still a team. THANK YOU.

5. There were no comments from the public.
6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Documents Reviewed at Meeting:

- Memo to the committee from Kathy Angell date 10/5/16
- Memo to the committee from Sally Schnitzer dated 10/4/16
- Draft recommendations dated 10/4/16