

## **WREP Meeting Minutes of 4/12/06.**

Location: Hingham

Attendees: Dick Avery, Faith Burbank, Judeth Van Hamm, Courtney Mullen, Karen Farber

Scribe: Scott Plympton

The Minutes from 3/1/06 were reviewed and approved

### **Report on WRWA Auction March 30**

Congratulations to Courtney, Samantha and all their helpers who helped make this fund raiser a tremendous success. The figures provided are only an estimate as additional money is still coming in.

- Courtney reports that event grossed about \$15,000
- Approximately \$2K in expenses, \$9K came in from auction items, \$5K in ticket sales and donations and \$1K from advertising. The net income to date is likely to be about \$13,000!!
- Many new members were signed
- Courtney's neighbor, Dino, is donating a gift of hardwood floors and installation labor for the Estuary Center!!

#### Publicity:

- The *Hull Times* had a photo caption. A thank you letter is expected this week.
- It was unclear if Hingham and Cohasset had any write-ups. Kirk Shilts was coordinating this.

#### Lessons Learned:

- Dick suggests that the group document the lessons learned from the event.
- It was suggested that the fund raiser occur every other year
- A microphone / PA needs to be present
- Checking out and payment had some difficulty. Use of credit cards from Kirk's chiropractic business was helpful.

#### Actions:

- Courtney and Sam are preparing thank you letters to the 150 donors
- Many thanks to Christine Collins (WRWA) as she really brought in the Hingham crowd.
- Auction books should be sent to the donators and advertisers.

Great job!!

## **Access Policy for Land Protection Plan**

Review the Access Policy for the Estuary Park and include as an appendix.

Discussion:

- Item H: “limit footpaths to neighborhood and educational use” was a primary topic. Scott was concerned that a park should not exclude foot traffic. Judeth provided a historical perspective on the intent. “Water is the Path” and roadways provide the means to view the estuary. Local property owners were strongly opposed to pedestrian access through neighborhoods. This was primarily in the area around the Hall Estate to the Landfill section.
  - In the early 90’s, Gateway East was once proposed for a multi-story housing project. Townsend proposed a ‘park’ and plans for a perimeter boardwalk were developed. Neighbors were not friendly towards a boardwalk.
  - Hull recorded a 10’ easement around the border of the Hall Estate.
  - In the Weir R. Woods, the entries to trails have been blocked to discourage misuse of Woods.
  - Thus “water is the path” and “use road right-of-ways as paths.”
  - It was discussed that Gateway West makes a better location for a footpath connected to the Estuary Center.
  - Any footpath should be weighed for its impact on wildlife.
  - Rather than use restrictive wording, Item H was removed from the Policy.
- Item M: Faith expressed concerns that storm water collection makes it dangerous and impassible to use certain sidewalks. Item M was removed as is covered by Item E “make the roadways pedestrian friendly”.
- Scott will revise the Access Policy and send the revisions to the group.
- The vote on the Access Policy will be taken at the May meeting.

### **Eagle Scout Trail / Kiosk Project Recognition**

- Scott will contact Jake’s father and determine a date for this ribbon cutting event.
- Dick has a resource for creating a plaque and will compose a few words of recognition and thank you from the committee.

### **Activity Matrix Review**

See Matrix for updates

- (2) Contact Land Owners: Karen reports that land owner Paul Hiltz has a parcel that he wants to donate or swap.
- (New) Community Protection Act Funding will be on Hull’s annual meeting May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is important to organize support for this effort.

- (6) West Corner Tidal Gate: Lawry (not present) has news with respect to a 4/11 meeting with Skip McCourt. This update will be distributed via email.
- (13) The Garden Club proposed a project to construct a model Rain Garden at the Estuary Center this fall.
- (14) Cohasset lost their website and will be recovering
- (17) Foundry Pond access trail along Greenbush. Judeth spoke to a bike path design engineer. Next action is to foster the political will to make this happen.

### **Upcoming Events / Announcements**

- Walkable – Bikeable Boulevard Workshop. Central Transportation Planning of Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Org will be addressing the issues and opportunities for access, sidewalks, crosswalks for sustainable transportation on GW Boulevard. At Jakes April 26, 11-2PM.
- Planning Board hosts an outing to Millennium Park, 10 a.m., Saturday April 29 leaving from Hull Town Hall to see opportunities for a former landfill.
- Weir River Clean-up May 20th

### **Next Meeting**

- Our next meeting will be in Cohasset May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00