

Weir River Estuary Park Committee Minutes
February 15, 2011; 7-9 pm
Hingham Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, MA

In attendance: Dick Avery, Faith Burbank, Judeth Van Hamm, Amy May, Scott Plympton
(Scribe) Bare Cove Park Committee: Paul Doyle (Chair), Patti Coyle (Vice Chair)

Objectives:

- To collaborate with Bare Cove Park representatives; to get their input on issues, policies, and their concerns as a park. WREP Committee works to prepare a DCR Resource Management Plan for a proposed forum in the fall and to advance formal recognition as a park.
- We shared stories our successes in land acquisition, habitat restoration, and our visions.

Bare Cove Park

- Acquired by the Navy in 1906 and used as a munitions depot until 1974 when it was decommissioned to become a federally mandated park as part president Nixon's "Lands to Parks" program.
- This park was started as 80 acres and is owned by the town of Hingham. It has expanded to 484 acres and joins closely to Wompatuck State Park, which is over 2500 acres.
- Near \$1MM of CPC funding was spent in open space renovations with the removal of 90 buildings and return to a more natural setting.
- Hingham provides annual funding of \$21K for park maintenance and for the services of a park ranger and dog officer. Additional funding comes from donations through an annual road race.

Park Challenges

- Heavy public use. Very popular with dog walkers. Issues with unleashed dogs.
- Major industrial reclamation efforts and a return to nature.
- Poor land and soil. No invasive species management plan. Knot weed issues.
- Coastal erosion caused through boat wakes and water activities
- Bare Cove Park has no Resource Management Plan

Recent Successes

- Triangle gardens landscaping and a proposed rain garden.
- Eagle Scout project to create 2 osprey nests.
- Jackson Square herring run

Plans

- Create a Maintenance Plan for managing the grounds
- Kayak launch was proposed, but has challenges with currents

Next Meeting

- 3/22 in Hingham Town Hall.
- Topics:
 - Discuss the impaired resources in the ACEC with Liz Sorenson and Jason Burtner
 - Review WREP Hingham and Cohasset contributions to the Annual Report if time permits
- Assignments: Study the Resource Management Plans for other towns.
- www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/
 - Scott (Neponset River), Judeth (Parker River), Amy (Kampoosa Bogs), Faith (Pleasant Bay)

