

2017 1-19 Minutes BPAC

Conference Room Eliot House. Thursday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Members Present: Paul Egan, Carrie Allen. Virginia Simmons, Mark Koschwitz

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Paul moved to accept the minutes from 12-15-16, Ginny seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business:

Fundraising was discussed as an imperative for both the bridge project and the greenway. Ginny suggested we do more to get the attention of the local papers. Carrie noted she knew nothing of online fundraising and encouraged anyone who did to update the group in a future meeting.

Mark updated the group on the Rails-to Trails grant application and his previous discussion with Debbie as to which of our current projects should be the object – either the Cream Pot Bridge or the Greenway. That decision must be made soon as the application is due at the end of January. Carrie and Mark expressed a preference for applying for funding to get the Greenway underway, since the grant funding (if awarded) may not be released in time for the bridge project.

Carrie updated the group on the greenway project. She has spoken with Judy Miller of the Shoreline Greenway who seems to very much want to adopt Clinton into the Shoreline Greenway family of East Haven, Branford, Guilford and Madison. BPAC shall be invited again to one of their board meetings in the near future. Our greenway project has received two strong letters of support thus far – one from Judy Miller, the Chair of the Shoreline Greenway, and the other from the Clinton Economic Development Commission. At this point it is support we will continue to pursue as a preamble to taking the project to the BOS. The future public forum was discussed and all agreed it was a good idea to inform the public once we've been given the necessary permissions to move the project forward.

Carrie updated the group on the Cream Pot bridge project as far as she understood it. Charles Brown, design engineer from Old Saybrook, has sent the initial engineered bridge drawings to Debbie and she in turn sent them to Pete Neff for his approval. Mark added that Pete is also currently pricing the plan [We will request that Pete price it once we finalize the plan].

New Business:

Cindy Stevens has complained to Debbie of bicyclists riding on the sidewalk in front of her shop on Main Street and Debbie has asked that the issue be discussed at the meeting tonight. Paul and Mark both maintain that it is illegal for bicyclists in Connecticut to ride on the sidewalks [Actually, there is no such state law]. It was suggested that Cindy go to the police if she hasn't already done so. It was also discussed that she might be a supporter of the Greenway as that would give bicyclists a place to ride their bikes safely. That particular part of Main Street was

mentioned as the most potentially dangerous part of the future greenway trail and that would most definitely have to be addressed with the police chief as well as BOS.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, Ginny seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Allen.