

'SCONSET BLUFF WALK PUBLIC ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

Tuesday Nov.9, 2010 / 4:15 PM @ 2 Fairgrounds Road Conference Room

Members Present: Co-Chair D.Anne Atherton, Bob Felch, Jeri Hicks, Joan Porter, Bert Ryder, Mary Wawro (arriv. 4:30 & lf approx.5:45)

Members Absent: Rob Benchley, Frank Holdgate, Harvey Young
BOS Liaison: Brian Chadwick

Audience Present: Carol Dunton, Linda Holland, Lee Saperstein

- I. Call to order Co-Chair Atherton called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM
A quorum was present.
- II. Approval of Minutes:
The motion was made by Jeri Hicks and seconded to approve the minutes of Oct. 26, 2010, as amended.
The vote was unanimous.

The motion was made by Bob Felch and seconded to approve the minutes of Nov. 2, 2010, as amended.
The vote was unanimous.
- III. Announcements:
Harvey Young is home after having surgery on Nov. 3rd
We all received the disc with the stairs from Frank Holdgate
Town Manager Gibson stated no Town records exist concerning licensing of the Bluff stairs.
Linda Holland sent a comment letter to the subcommittee which will be included in the minutes
- IV. Discussion: Draft of Report of the Subcommittee

Are we okay with the final decision re: the four ways to be “opened” in the first round? (No, we added one more for a total of (5) five ways)
Thoughts re: map to illustrate recommendations? (Yes,)
Does the “Draft” Report reflect the intentions of the Subcommittee? (Yes)
Any and all suggestions for changes, additions, deletions, edits, etc.? (See below)
Are we ready to formally vote to adopt the REPORT in DRAFT form? (Yes)
Process forward? Circulate DRAFT for comment? (On web site for short period of time) Present to ROW in DRAFT form? (Yes, on Nov. 16, 2010)
Seek public input before FINAL Report issued? (Public comment already requested, ex. the Wade cottage meetings in July & Aug., however further written

comments can be included at the end of the FINAL Report, but the report will not be opened back up on the subcommittee level for any changes)

The subcommittee reviewed the report.

Watch for formatting, fonts, bold use, to be consistent through-out

Introduction: this may or may not be included

It may include reference to public access, actions to be carried forward, Town take responsibility for maintenance,

Table of Contents: Alpha Number and also Page Numbers

Page 5. The minutes of the BOS meeting (when available) will show the BOS referral to the ROW Committee to create a subcommittee to make recommendations concerning the lateral ways and management of the “Sconset Footpath.. It does shows as an agenda item VII. #1, on the agenda for March 17, 2010.

Page 6 & 7 Some formatting

Page 8

Change: Andrew V. Vorce, Director of Planning (and wherever this appears)

Jeff Willett, ADD Director

Add:

Alpha list acknowledgements

55 Attendees from the Wade Cottages Meetings in July & Aug. 2010

NO / Susan Whitney (she is already included in the list of Members of the Public)

Page 9

Change

Anne’s (spelling in the ATM 2010 Warrant)

2nd arrow / change ATM this year to 2011 ATM (also wherever this appears)

3rd arrow / change to (5) locations, add 27& 29 Baxter Road last paragraph / that the Town ‘consider’ such a strategy

Page 11

Frazer Lane ADD / Emily Street

Page 12

Change / Director of Planning

Page 13

ADD Map (maybe with original ways Art. 74, one color & Anne’s a different color)

Page 14

The conditions of the footpath came from the minutes

- Page 16
Change ATM this year TO ATM 2011
Director of Planning ((2) places)
Add After Planning 2nd last sentence – and agreed to by the Board of Selectmen
- Page 17
Add five (5) locations
27 & 29 Frazer AKA Emily Street
- Page 18 Reference surfaces leave as is except 4’ width
litter, privacy is referenced here & also page 21 and is up to the property owners
- Page 19 DELETE from 2nd paragraph / Although this count was far from scientific
- Page 21 Rob Benchley’s suggestion for the sign could be used as a template,
Rob & Bob up-date wording including DELETE “bike rack” and ADD “the hrs opened”
The final wording and any costs are up to the ROW Committee or BOS
- Page 22 DELETE Minimum / first sentence
Add surface not altered
The cost estimates are just “Info Only”
- Page 23 Mary Wawro will work with D.Anne on the paragraph re: the stairs and noting the difference between a license & permit
- Page 24 The conclusions are not overall
We have both “Conclusions” and “Executive Summary”

The appendices need to be renumbered

Include re: stairs: Annie Bissinger’s 10 page chart & Mary Wawro’s 5 page chart
Joan Porter’s Visitor Count chart notes maybe added as to the weather each day

The media articles: Bob will get them in PDF form and the URL Reference in word with the date and address

All meetings have been posted for public comment and attendance
‘Sconset Trust will include reference to the “Draft” Report in their news letter being sent out shortly

This report is advisory, so as to the full survey of the footpath, the ROW Committee can advise and the BOS can make that decision.

On signage could reference ex. "leave footprints only"

The BOS may have some control of bus routes which could help with "no commercial use" of the footpath. This would have to be followed up by the residents, not as part of this report

The vote was made by Jeri Hicks and seconded to approve the 'Draft' Report, as amended and get out to the ROW Committee prior to their Tuesday meeting. The vote was unanimous.

- V. Next Steps Reminders
D.Anne Draft 2 out by the weekend

All "Draft Report" to ROW Nov. 16, 2010

How to structure our presentation to the ROW Committee?
(Get "Draft" plan out to committee prior to their Tuesday Nov. 16th meeting,
The members will all participate in the presentation, all questions & discussion
will be held until the end of the presentation)

Presentation:

Introduction / D.Anne & Harvey

Archives / Frank Holdgate

Subcommittee Info / Jeri Hicks

Exec. Summary / Bert Ryder

Management Plan / Bob Benchley, Bob Felch, Joan Porter

Close / D.Anne & Harvey Young

- VI. Adjournment:
Co-Chair Atherton adjourned the meeting @ 6:15 PM.
The next Meeting is @ the ROW Committee Meeting, Tuesday Nov. 16, 2010
@ 4:00 PM at 2 Fairgrounds Road

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeromette M. Hicks
Secretary Pro Tem

Documents Included:

Working Agenda 11/9/10

Minutes 10/26/10 and 11/2/10

Draft Report of the Subcommittee

Draft Management Plan

Linda Holland, Comment Letter Dated 11/7/10

Your tasks are drawing to a conclusion and I want to take this opportunity to express a few thoughts while the record is still open. First and foremost, you have attended numerous meetings trying to consider your charge and this thoughtful review of a special 'Sconset asset is recognised and your generous gift of time, appreciated.

I know you are aware of my concern with the make-up of the committee. It is truly stacked against the abutting property owners who are most impacted by the path and your actions. I am one of those abutters. The committee of 9 has only one abutter to the footpath. There are 2 other 'Sconset residents. The remaining 6 members do not even live in the village.

The footpath, to my knowledge, has never been closed and has been enjoyed as a "foot promenade" by 'Sconset residents. Mr. Flagg's gift of the northern portion of the footp

ath to the Proprietors said that it be "used as a footpath ... and for no other purpose or purposes whatsoever".

Today, I am sorry that this foot promenade has become an abused asset of the town. Recently it has become an intrusion upon the families who have lived in peace along this footpath for many years. In my 70 years residence, I never heard anyone living along the path complain about the walkers who were always courteous and definitely enjoyed their stroll until the past 5 years.

This path is unique as it progresses in front of, over, or through private residential property, often by easement alone. The public rights to it are substantially different from land owned by the Town or by conservation groups. There is a need for greater respect of private property and personal lives along the path that is not inherent in public property.

The ATM vote to take east - west access ways to the footpath will increase the already significant use of the path. If the voters are going to increase the useage of the path there follows a Town obligation to help assure those living adjacent to, or permitting passage over said footpath, a continuance of their expected peace and quiet in their private homes.

If access is to be expanded (as proposed) and the footpath advertised, and walkers islandwide as well as worldwide encouraged to walk, the numbers of pedestrians will certainly increase. The users need to respect the rights of those into whose bedrooms they are broadcasting their cellphone conversations and shouting their drunken epithets.

Their dogs need to be restrained and common courtesies observed. My vegetable garden has even been openly vandalised many times in recent years. That act alone serves to demonstrate the caliber of visitors to the path.

I am asking that the Town take responsibility for this new expansion of use of the footpath, and assure enforcement of already existing public regulations. Civility is on the decline and those walking now assume broad rights to intrude upon my rights to peace and quiet on my property. Nantucket has a noise by-law, prohibition of public drinking, a leash law, no littering; and more but by-laws are not obeyed or enforced. It is very hard to get the police to come to 'Sconset especially in the Summer; as Nantucket proceeds with this expansion and encouragement of useage of a traditionally quiet footpath I hope you will assist and support the abutters.

Thank you.

Linda S. Holland