**TRI-TOWN TRAIL NEWS**

**On Wednesday, December 11, Dave Holdridge, Chairperson of the Tri Town Trail Association Bluff Point to Preston Trail Committee, presented the final report of the Trail Committee. The committee was appointed by Joint Resolutions of the Towns of Ledyard, Groton and Preston in 2008 to explore the feasibility of building a multi-use trail from Bluff Point State Park in Groton to Preston Community Park. A Master Plan was created and is posted on our Website. It shows the most desirable route and a few optional plans. Recommendations are made regarding parking, security and signage. Cost Estimates are also included.**

**Over the past five years, the Committee has shared its vision with various government and civic groups. Brochures and maps were created and distributed at fairs and libraries. Together with the Ledyard Rotary, the Committee has held a Fund Raising Gala at The Paddock in Ledyard for the past two years to raise matching funds for the $160,000.00 grant thru the Town of Ledyard from the Connecticut Recreational Trails Grant Program. Another grant through the Town of Groton is still pending.**

**The public reaction to our plan has been overwhelmingly positive. This past October a Public Forum and Panel Discussion on Public Use of Reservoir Property was held with statewide trail experts, including the Director of the Groton Reservoir System. We remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached.**

**Over the past two years, the Bluff Point to Preston Trail Committee has transformed itself from a governmental committee to a volunteer organization called the Tri Town Trail Association. As such, we have filed as a Connecticut Nonprofit Corporation and have a pending application to the IRS as a 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization.**

**We now assume that the Town appointed Bluff Point to Preston Trail Committee will be terminated. The same committee members, along with many other new members, will continue their work as the Tri Town Trail Association. Although we will no longer be a government committee, we will continue to work closely with Town Officials.**

**We are excited with the awarding of the grant money and hope that we will soon have the beginnings of the Tri Town Trail in Ledyard. Please follow us on Facebook or visit our Website** [***www.tritowntrail.com***](http://www.tritowntrail.com/) **for more information. Our Regular Monthly Meetings are held at the Groton Public Library, the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:05 PM.**