

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on Monday, December 12, 2005.

Sworn Members in Attendance: Sallie Thoma, Ken Dolder, Chris Picone, Irene Gelinas. Mary Coswell, Barnie Hines and Janet Dolder were absent. Ex Officio Member, Eric Smith, Town Planner attended. Cec Snow (ACT) and Gary Howland (ACT) attended.

Sallie Thoma opened meeting at 6:40 P.M. November Minutes were read and the following corrections were made:

Date of Meeting corrected to 14 November.

Names of guests changed to Daniel J. McCarthy and son Patrick of McCarthy Associates, Inc.

Page 2, 1st para - last sentence to read: Chris will personally request Neal Anderson to assist with flagging, put ribbons on trees to i.d area.

4th Para - Committee agreed to go to the upcoming Special Town Meeting with two \$30,000. requests for engineering and development.

Chris Picone moved to accept November Minutes as corrected; Ken Dolder seconded.

OLD BUSINESS;

Eric informed us that Town Manager has signed deed with hazardous waste clause. One clean copy from railroad not received yet.

Paperwork received from Sherri Dufour of MRPC reference "Brownfield's Initiative" to qualify for funding for Phase 1. This will describe property, zoning, other details (cost) and proposed uses. Ken made a motion to accept to participate; Sallie seconded. Massachusetts Regional Brownfield Reuse Initiative and Site Nomination & EPA site Approval form.

Massachusetts Senate has approved Department of Economic Development to distribute \$500,000. per year in matching grants for cities and towns to purchase environmental liability insurance for local rail-trail projects. This insurance protects communities from potential liability arising from any contamination found during the design and construction phase of new rail trails. Without these protections, the town would be left vulnerable to potentially costly litigation. This eliminates significant financial barrier for these towns to move projects forward.

Sherri Dufour, MRPC, will be conducting a follow up "Project Results" Meeting on Wed. Dec. 21st at the John R. Briggs Elementary School Library at 6:30 P.M. At this meeting they will verify the existing and proposed trails in Ashburnham that were discussed at the Trail Kick-Off meeting last spring, and also to discuss details for each of these trails (i.e. trail name, surface type, condition, etc.)

Transportation Enhancement Program - Work with Regional Planning

Agency prior to commencing project development.

Sallie suggested that some members talk to neighbors abutting the trail ASAP. Let them know we want to be good neighbors. Put up fences or whatever is needed for privacy. How can we work with them ? The trail could possibly increase property values. There are some pieces that the owners are unknown.

Eric left at 7 PM to attend another town meeting.

Ken submitted two articles for the January Town Meeting. Date may be changed. We will discuss what to cover during our Jan. 9th meeting. Meeting with Conservation Commission will be either Dec. 27th at 9 PM or 10 Jan. 2006. Bring 2 sets of maps showing wetlands. A Determination of Applicability is required with a fee of \$50.00 to Town Hall before work starts.

Chris & Sallie will check state regs about "man-made wetlands" and if a "wooden bridge with conditions" is acceptable.

Reference portion of property referred to as the "triangle" , a letter was presented at the Selectmen's Meeting requesting that the town take the property by eminent domain. (Unknown owner)

Rep. Olver is in receipt of the White Paper.

Ken is meeting with Kevin Paicos to obtain a separate bank account for the rail trail. "Friends of the Ashburnham Rail Trail" cannot ask for but can accept donations. Monies to be used to promote the rail trail. Review with attorney if this would be tax deductible. This to be reviewed at Jan . meeting.

Sallie, Ken, Chris and Mary will meet in late December to prepare presentation for town meeting.

Sallie motioned to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Next meeting January 9, 2006.