

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
RAIL TRAIL MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2007  
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on March 12, 2007. The meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Sworn-in members in attendance: Sallie Thoma, Sherisa Sterling, Paula Gorrell, Art Pinsoneault, Irene Gelinas and Barnie Hines.

Ex Officio member in attendance: Eric Smith, Town Planner and Cec Snow (ACT).

Barnie made a motion to accept the February minutes with correction and Art 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Copy to Town Clerk.

Cec asked Sallie if she could call Darlene Virgo at Pan Am Railroad inquiring the cost and availability of the land on the Cheshire Line.

Sallie asked Eric who would be the proper person to draft a letter to the property owner on Puffer Street who has a shed on the Rail Trail. Eric suggested that we speak with the Building Inspector Gallant.

A letter needs to be to the 40B meeting on or before March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup>. The letter needs to reflect the Rail Trails wishes concerning the Map 20 Parcel 69 piece of old railroad land, which the Town needs to take ownership of. Then for the open space on May 19 Parcel 7 (property subject of the 40B project) that we would be granted an easement on the land and easement connection to Briggs School and some of the money from the 40B Fees and Profit Sharing Concept being discussed with Mark Dymek to be designated or donated for the design of the Rail Trail, but we still would like May 20 Parcel 69 to be an outright gift. Eric spoke about the (3) three town owned lots on Lake Watatic. Mark would like to swap one parcel for parcel spoken about above. One of the lots was purchased by an abutter, which is a small lot with no room for parking and is swampy so that makes it almost unusable by the Town. The third parcel is surrounded by other Town-parcels and could provide future passive recreational access to Lake Watatic. Eric handed us and spoke of the draft letter concerning the proposed Rail Trail land swap.

At our April meeting Faye, Spofford & Thorndike (F.S.T.) will make their presentation that was scheduled for our March meeting.

Eric had a postcard invite about an upcoming "Small Town Meeting" and dinner to be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with guest speaker Arthur Frost, of MassHighway.

Paula brought up the upcoming meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 until 1:00 p.m. about uses for the old Highway Department building and what the Rail Trail would like to see it used for, we mentioned we could see it being used for parking for the trail. All are encouraged to attend. (It has since been cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled). A discussion was also brought in about how Flo Chemical's Robert Karpiuk is willing to work together with us to help in some way with the Rail Trail Committee.

Our election was put off for a month or two to think about bringing in new members and whom we would like to see in positions within the committee.

Barnie brought up about the clippings and debris on the trail between Willard and Turnpike Roads. Sallie and Eric said it would be brought up during the 25% design plan discussions, when the Conservation Commission is reviewing the plans.

Paula Gorrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and Art Pinsoneault 2<sup>nd</sup> it, no discussion and all were in favor.

Our next meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Stevens Memorial Library.

Submitted by: Bernadette (Barnie) Hines

cc: Town Clerk's Office