



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Approved 7-16-07

Northborough Trails Committee Meeting Minutes June 18, 2007

The Northborough Trails Committee met at 7:00 P.M. on June 18, 2007, at the Northborough Police Department. The following members were present: Charlie Bradley, Marielle Stone, Art Cole, George Curtis, Ellie Guild, Jim Stein, Sherral Devine, and Forrest Lyford.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as read.

STEWARD'S REPORTS

Coyote Trail: Art reported that 2/3 of the bog bridges were seriously damaged by floods. Grass needs to be cut and bridges re-set. A work detail is scheduled for Friday, June 22 at 9:00am. Art, Scott, George, and Charlie plan to be there. Forrest and Jim may possibly be able to help.

Cole Trail: Trailhead at Beeman Road was overwhelmed with trash. Art was able to clean up much of it, but some is tangled in brush and not reachable. Marielle suggested notifying the Board of Health about this trash. Art agreed to make that contact. Art cleared out some of the Cole trail with his lawn rake—new tool to combat ferns. Marielle reported a large tree fallen on the Cole or Talbot trail.

Talbot Trail: To move forward with the new Talbot trail we need the GPS information and aerial photo for Bill Davis. We also need an agreement with Mass Wildlife. Marielle is working on this.

Little Chauncy: Art mowed this area at the very end of May. Marielle reported that mowing is needed again. Marielle also reported that the access at this location continues to be so flooded it is impassable. The bridge on this trail is in good shape, but needs a new length on the field side.

Cedar Hill: Trail on top of hill needs to be mowed. Marielle will contact SVT about this. The new signs are completed and ready to be installed. Charlie and Marielle will install these signs.

Crane Swamp Trail: The sign post at the Mass Wildlife trailhead onto Crane Swamp Trail was knocked over by the recent SVT work on Cedar Hill. This will be re-installed by Art or Charlie.

Edmund Hill: George & Forrest cut the large tree laying across the trail, and Forrest cut a second tree & improved the corduroy road. Forrest reported that the gully wash through the Meadowbrook trail has made for a rough trail. Meadowbrook & Goldfinch trail both have trees that have partially fallen, leaning on other trees, over the trails. They are big trees & cannot be safely removed. Consensus was that these trees need to be left as they are at this time. Forrest reported that there is no new evidence of ATV activity.

Jubilee Trail: Forrest reported that this trail is getting a lot of usage, and it is in good condition.

Mt. Pisgah: Charlie reported that they Bennett Trail needs cutting, and he will do this. The rest of the trails look good.

Cold Harbor: Sherral reported that they bench at the edge of the field, by the birdhouses, is gone. Sherral did some cutting/trimming along the trail.

POTENTIAL TRAIL LOCATIONS

Coyote Trail Extension: Art reported that he was referred by the Dam Safety officer for the state to the DCR director of the Northeast Region, Susan Hamilton. Ms. Hamilton was “tremendously helpful,” suggesting that a meeting be set up so the trail approval can be addressed quickly. The meeting is set for July 9, 10:00am, at the Town Hall. Kara Buzanoski the head of the DPW for Northborough, informed Art that it was a good idea to include the potential trail along the sewer line on Hudson street into the same application.

Algonquin HS property: Waiting on feedback from the Gutierrez company for the trail that would cross their property.

BOY SCOUT/EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Cold Harbor Trail: No new information from Ben Hamilton since our last meeting in May.

Talbot Trail: Charlie has some feelers out with the Boy Scouts, but has not yet heard from any scouts interested in working on the trails.

COLD HARBOR BLUEBERRY MEADOW

No update, because Claude was not present at the meeting.

NORTHBOROUGH TRAILS QUEST

Sherral reported that she is working to finish the SVT Quest by the end of the month. Some link to Northborough Trails will be included in this Quest, and the Northborough Trails Quest can launch from this. Sherral indicated that she has an idea

for highlighting all of Northborough's trails with a Letterboxing Quest. Upon completion of all the letterbox finds, the finder would earn a patch. Jim suggested the patch can be general so it can be used for other Northborough Trails activities. When the quest is launched, the Boy and Girl Scouts can be contacted to see whether they would be interested in a competition (details to be determined later) related to the NT Quest.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Detailed map book: Marielle will contact Dave Kane, head of the Northborough GIS service, to discuss development of the map book.

Forrest raised the possibility of including additional adjacent town trails to the Northborough trails map. In particular, he discussed the rocky Pond Trail in Boylston.

Forrest reported that he had been contacted by a Girl Scout Leader in town and asked to lead a hike for the Girl Scouts. He took them along the Cedar Hill and Crane Swamp trails.

Jim asked about whether signs could be made to identify the driveway into Yellick Conservation Area. Charlie indicated that we have extra aluminum, and we can have the logo put on by the printer, and then we can use alphabet stickers to make our own signs.

MISCELLANEOUS

The new mower has arrived and Charlie will pick it up on Wednesday. Art will deliver the ramp to the trailer on Tuesday.

Charlie reported that as of October 2006 the Trails Committee funds were \$1,508. Payments for new trail signs were \$268 for vinyl and \$121 for aluminum. Current total is therefore approximately \$1,119.

Charlie reported on some possibilities for acquiring scraps from commercial decking projects. He is pursuing this.

The next meeting is July 16, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Sherral Devine