



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Approved October 15, 2007

## Northborough Trails Committee Meeting Minutes September 17, 2007

The Northborough Trails Committee (NTC) met Monday, September 17, 2007 in the Police Station conference room. Committee members present included: Charles Bradley, Arthur Cole, George Curtis, Sherral Devine, Claude Guerlain, Jack Hall, Scott Karpuk, Forest Lyford, Jim Stein, and Marielle Stone

Meeting came to order at 7:05 PM

August 2007 meeting minutes were considered and accepted as written.

### Trail Stewards Reports:

Little Chauncey: Not flooded anymore, although road is still quite rutted.

Cedar Hill: Signs are ready for installation; Laura Mattei -SVT plans to make an interpretive trails with numbered posts, which will correspond to information in a brochure.

Talbot Trail: Re-routed trail was GPS'd, with coordinates sent to Dan Stimson-SVT. He'll enter them on their map and forward to Dave Kane in Northborough's GIS dept. Marielle will notify Bill Davis-Mass Wildlife when this process is completed.

Crane Swamp: Town's trails map book still contains old map. Art will make sure the old one is deleted from the town's file of maps for handouts.

Mount Pisgah: Everything is in good shape.

#### Hikes:

Three organized hikes are planned on Pisgah in the next month, as follows:

9/29: NTC's Art Cole leads at 9:30 - announced through Rec. Dept.

10/13: Zeh School's Peter Sieurin leads annual family hike

10/21: Newcomers' Club - Claude Guerlain leads family hike at 11:00 with optional lunch/harvest picking following at Tougas Farm

Bennett Trail: Trail de-stumped following resident's input.

Berlin Trail: Berlin completed their parking lot on Linden Street at Derby Road -- holds upwards of 15 cars. Charlie will ask SVT to update their map to show parking and add directions.

Coyote: Invasive plants need cutting back or eradication along entrance trail from parking lot. Forest trail to be rerouted and re-blazed.

Coyote Trail Extension: Still awaiting written permission from the State to put in the bridge. DCR has given verbal approval of the entire Yellick loop trail. Kathy Joubert will follow-up. Still need approval from Northborough's Conservation Commission.

Edmunds Hill: Overall in good shape.

Proctor Trail: Needs a better transition built at the bridge for mountain bikes. Users have been making their own fixes. The plank walk is sinking into the muck. May need to replace it with concrete blocks and ground-contact PT 4X4s. Boardwalk itself can be regular PT.

Cold Harbor Trail: Volunteer Linden Hough mowed the entire trail, including both dams with the new NTC mower. Trail is dry now, although it was still too wet in July for the DPW to get their equipment in to remove a beaver dam. Need to explore if the land is on Lake Quinsigamond property.

Watson Park: Town is putting in a new well.

**Blazes**: Committee elected to do future blazing with paint rather than recycled plastic markers, primarily due to vandalism of markers. A latex paint test conducted at Jubilee Trail proved successful. Art Cole will secure yellow, red and blue paint. Where appropriate, NTC will also use a forstner bit\* to remove bark in areas to be blazed. Charlie will secure an appropriate sized bit.

### **Eagle Scout Candidate Projects:**

#### Cold Harbor:

Ben Hamilton still needs to do some fundraising. Wanted to start the project this winter; however, NTC does not wish to lose the dry, bug-free weather we now have. May need to reassign projects unless Ben shows consistent forward progress with a commitment to commence the project before year-end 2007 and show up to NTC meetings with progress reports.

#### Coyote Extension:

Ethan Langer is taking this project through the wetlands, till it reaches the stone wall at Birchwood, and must construct all the board walking. He will work with Claude to approach the Appalachian Mountain Club for project funding. Another Eagle Scout candidate, Daniel, will continue the trail from the wall to the bridge. This section does not require boardwalks. It primarily needs clearing and raking.

### **Applefest:**

NTC had a great turnout of volunteers manning the booth it shared with the Open Space Committee and SVT. George Curtis and his son made an excellent easel sign with which to attract passers-by. Charlie set up the NTC storage shed behind the booth and put all the donated equipment on display. The Karpuk family rigged the Trails DVD to show throughout the day. Sherral brought everything needed to describe and demonstrate the new NTC letterboxing quest. All agreed that the quest and map books were excellent draws to the booth. Eight new volunteer families agreed to be added to the email blast list.

### **C.P.A. Funding:**

Ideas were brainstormed, and some fleshed out. Everyone was asked to bring more ideas, preferably with associated dollar amounts, to the next meeting. There was much discussion about ideas to improve communications/attractions with/for recreation, families and schools.

**Next Meeting**: Monday, October 15, 2007 at the Police Station Conference Room

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

\* Forstner bits create flat-bottomed holes, and are very efficient at removing material in short periods of time. They typically come in diameters ranging from 1/4 inch up to over 3 inches (6 - 75mm).

Claude Guerlain - Secretary stand-in