



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Approved 11/16/09

Town of Northborough-Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2009

Present: Charlie Bradley, Lana Chan, George Curtis, Sherral Devine, Claude Guerlain, Mary Jaiswal, Scott Karpuk, Nancy Kellner, Forest Lyford, Bob Mihalek, Tim Porter, Marielle Stone

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and the minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting were approved.

Trail Steward Reports

- a) Mt. Pisgah-no reported issues; need to refill map box
- b) Cold Harbor-trail in great shape, boardwalks before floating bridge need to be replaced; Bob reported work done with pole trimmer
- c) Jubilee-Forest reported that paint blazes have been freshened up; Bob reported work with pole trimmer
- d) Edmund Hill-Brief discussion of parking lot reconfiguration and kiosk/diorama at "Senior Center" trailhead
- e) Coyote/Bird Song/Old Farm-trails in good shape except for a few low areas with water; new signage has been installed as well as map boxes
- f) Stirrup Brook-signs and mapbox installed; still need mapbox at Bartlett St. trailhead; trail is in good shape, well marked except for arrows needed at sewer easement; needs some work on exposed stumps
- g) Watson Park-Bob did some maintenance on trail (vine removal)
- h) Cedar Hill/Little Chauncey-in good shape; one tree needs to be removed; mapbox installed, post repaired; Westborough portion of Old Talbot Trail has been abandoned; Dan Stimson asked for a volunteer to maintain Connector Trail; brief discussion about future trail development on Westborough State Hospital property

Old/New Business

- Eagle Scout Projects
 - Chapin Canal Trail: Harry Silverstein (Marielle)-Marielle spoke with DCR regarding paperwork; a trail diagram (jpeg) will be sent to them; still a trash problem; project to include a kiosk and new boardwalks on Bird Song
 - Cold Harbor: Gregg Farrell (Charlie)-Charlie signed off on project
 - Claude mentioned the possibility of a scout who might undertake the "Nature's Classroom" area on the Stirrup Brook Trail

- Coyote Trail Workday-
 - After a lengthy discussion with many divergent, but friendly, opinions, it was decided that the work session would be scheduled for Saturday October 24 at 10 am and would consist of evaluation, exploration, assessment and minor work which might include grading, rerouting, moving and/or installing ropes. The goal is to create a stable trail with a drainage plan without disturbing the integrity of the landscape.
 - Charlie and Marielle observed that extensive work (such as Bob's observation that we might need about 20 8-foot long landscape timbers to reinforce the downhill side of the trail) would not be possible without going through a permitting process with ConCom.
 - NOTE: After the meeting, but prior to the distribution of the minutes, the work day was cancelled so that a more thorough assessment could be made before proceeding with any work.

- Edmund Hill parking lot-Bob shared the report of a TV discarded in parking lot. It was determined that this is a ConCom or police issue, as we are stewards not property managers nor enforcers of the law

- Brief discussion about advice for hikers during "hunting season"—wear orange or hike on Sunday (because hunting is not permitted in Massachusetts on Sunday). It was acknowledged that hunters have the same rights to the land as the hikers.

- Nancy reported that she wrote a grant to be submitted by the public library for the creation of Nature Trek Packs (to enhance the enjoyment of the trails) to be circulated by the library

- A brief discussion was held about the upcoming CPA funding request deadline. No decisions were made at this time.

Next Meeting is Monday November 16, 2009.
Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kellner, Secretary