



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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## Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2009

Present: Charlie Bradley, George Curtis, Steve Daunais, Claude Guerlain, Scott Karpuk, Nancy Kellner, Forest Lyford, Tim Porter, Jim Stein

Also Present: William Lyver (for presentation)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and the minutes of the November 2008 meeting were approved.

A brief discussion was held about choice of meeting night when regularly scheduled meeting falls on a holiday as it did this month. The group consensus was to decide on a month-by-month basis.

**PLEASE NOTE: February's meeting will remain on Monday night 2/16/09 despite the President's Day holiday.** Claude agreed to take minutes in Nancy's absence.

Trail steward reports were presented. Several areas were noted for further action, consideration or comment.

- There is beaver activity along the Assabet River in the Coyote Trail System
- The Yellick Conservation Parking Area will not be plowed for safety reasons
- Other parking areas will be plowed by town as priority permits
- Mt. Pisgah trails sustained significant damage from the December ice storm. Volunteers responded and completed a major clean up featuring three chainsaw crews. Berlin side still needs work.
- Rope anchoring bridge on "Algonquin" trail was cut; Charlie will replace with steel cable
- Steel cable will also be used to anchor other bridges, boardwalks and picnic tables throughout town
- Remaining trails are in good shape or suffered only minor damage from storm

A discussion followed regarding trail development.

- Algonquin Trail has been completed
  - Jersey barriers on turnout have been moved in with the approval of the State DPW to allow some off-road parking
  - Access will be kept clear in the upper parking lot at ARHS to allow access to trailhead

- Open items include: official name from the naming committee, trail map from town, signage and stewards
- News media notification-George submitted a “Year in Review” to several local news outlets; other publications were suggested
- Boy Scout 2009 Projects-none at this time; Claude suggested cleanup of the construction debris on the Algonquin Trail

#### Old/New Business

- William Lyver of the Police Department presented CPA grant application for trail and open space patrol vehicles. State Environmental Police will train officers. No trail degradation should occur. Committee agreed unanimously to support grant.
- Charlie reported that Josh Richardson has been working behind the scenes on the website. The new and improved website should be ready to launch on February 1, 2009.
- Picnic tables have been placed on the Coyote Trail System
- After a brief discussion led by Claude, the committee agreed to rename portions of the Coyote Trail System. From Route 20 to Boundary Street will be called the “Old Farm Trail”. From Route 20 to the existing Coyote Trail at the “T” intersection will be called the Bird Song Trail. The original Coyote Trail and Tall Grass Trail will remain as is.
- Also named were the picnic table overlooks—Beaver Point and Owl’s Point
- Charlie reported on his presentation to the CPC on January 15, 2009. Grant applications are not voted on until all have been heard.
- Potential Trail Development
  - A small rerouting of the newly named Bird Song Trail was suggested
  - DCR land near the “Shops at 9 and 20”, including the old Mustang Riding Stables and Smith Pond is under consideration
  - Upper Newton Street has potential for trails
  - Several parcels of land are being considered for purchase by the town for the preservation of open space. These parcels would create a corridor connecting to the Mt. Pisgah area
- Agenda item for next meeting-program or event to recognize Earth Day

Meeting adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Kellner, Secretary