



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5019 • 508-393-6996 Fax

Approved 7/20/09

Meeting Minutes June 15, 2009

Present: Diane Benison, George Curtis, Steve Daunais, Sherral Devine, Claude Guerlain, Nancy Kellner, Forest Lyford, Bob Mihalek, Jeff Pierce, Tim Porter, Jim Stein, Marielle Stone

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting were approved.

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

- Coyote/Bird Song/Old Farm Trails—Claude reported that there was an email request (to the website) for more signage on the Coyote Trail; mowing is scheduled and a small stretch of boardwalk is needed due to wet conditions
- Jubilee is a relatively maintenance free trail and is in fine shape
- Edmund Woods—Forest reported trailhead improvements; he made and installed a roof for the signboard, removed weathered map on signboard (to be replaced); made and installed a new mapbox
- Little Chauncey/Cedar Hill has been mowed and trail is in good shape
- Mt. Pisgah--in good shape; Bob reported that he cleared the North View and the South View (to the cheers of the committee members!)
- Cold Harbor—Sherral noted that portions are completely overgrown and need to be weed-whacked (which Bob offered to do); there has been a proposal to remove or move some of the boardwalks to allow easier mowing of meadow
- Watson Park—Bob did some maintenance (fallen trees); noted that signage is missing (Jim will re-install sign)
- Trail at Algonquin—in excellent shape except for poison ivy on the trail spur that leads to the ARHS parking lot; Claude will look into getting permission from the school to use Round-Up. It was also noted that the Regional School Committee will address the naming of the trail at their June 17th meeting.
- It was also noted that it would be helpful if a sign could be placed on Hudson Street indicating the parking area of the Coyote Trailhead. Claude volunteered to take care of this.

Old/New Business

- Chairman’s Status-Marielle Stone, as vice-chair, will serve as interim chairman until a new chairman has been elected. We will address the vacancy at our next meeting. It was also acknowledged that Charlie Bradley’s knowledge base of projects, inventory and personnel is an important resource that will need to be “accessed” over the next few months and it is expected that Charlie will continue to be an active member until further notice.
- Applefest 2009-George has arranged for a double booth to be shared with Sudbury Valley Trustees and Open Space Committee; board members volunteered to cover all the shifts. The date has been changed to September 26, 2009 and there may be a small fee assessed.
- BSA Eagle Scout Projects
 - Ryan Lang (Algonquin Trail)—Claude met with Ryan and his advisor, Rick Hagen. The proposed project involves cleanup of the stream and area below parking lot, removal of silt fence, building and installing 3 specially designed picnic tables to create a “Nature’s Classroom” area with an access trail to the athletic fields. Project is in the initial stages with many open items such as funding, permissions and time frame.
 - Harry Silverstein (Proposed Canal Trail and/or rerouting of Bird Song) Marielle met with Harry to view site for proposed trail. The proposed project involves cleanup of a dumpsite, installation of an informational kiosk for historic commentary and work on the Bird Song trail. Project is in the initial phase as well. Marielle reported that the bench cutting of the Coyote Trail requires a “focused, engineering approach” and should probably be handled by our committee rather than as a scout project.
 - Cold Harbor Trail-- Charlie is contact for this project. No report.
- Potential Trail Development—continued discussion about possible areas for future trails
 - New loop trail near Talbot on Mass Wildlife Property-there is currently a hold on all trail development on MWR property
 - Route 20/Tomblin Hill—should keep as an active item
 - ConCom land near Smith Pond-should keep as an active item
 - Chapin Canal-will be a BSA Eagle Scout project as reported above
- Ongoing trail maintenance—several items relating to this topic were discussed
 - Tim offered to do some brush cutting where needed.
 - Diane inquired about regularly scheduled workdays. While these were scheduled in the past, recently we have only used organized work parties for trail development.
 - A question was raised about the mowing of the Connector Trail on the Cedar Hill/Crane Swamp Trails. Sherral recalled that this was the responsibility of SVT.
 - Marielle reported that Dan Stimson, Assistant Director of Stewardship at SVT, is working with Genzyme employees who have volunteered to do some trail maintenance and upkeep.
 - The group discussed alternative ways to stay current on the status of trails and maintenance activity, specifically between regularly scheduled meetings. Jeff offered to research some options (wiki, blog, Facebook) and present them at the next meeting.

- Diane suggested a steward-in-training program.
- Tim offered to take on steward responsibilities, possibly of a portion of the Mt. Pisgah system.

Next Meeting is Monday July 20, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kellner, Secretary