



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Approved 1/18/11

Trails Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes August 16, 2010

Present: Claude Guerlain, Scott Karpuk, Matt Scott, Forest Lyford, Bob Mihalek, Jim Stein, Marielle Stone, George Curtis

Guests: Tim (Summer resident of Northborough)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. There were no minutes from July's meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

Trail Steward Reports

- a) Mt. Pisgah-Charlie Bradley could not attend but reported in by e-mail: *The last time I looked at the Bennett Trail a few weeks ago it needed weedwacking at the Howard St. trailhead. I'll try and do that next week. BTW, another BSA project could be to widen the boardwalks on the Bennett Trail using the planks from Cold Harbor. That boardwalk is only 10" wide and it could use another 2 sections. It could even be just Service Hours rather than an E.S.P. because it wouldn't be enough hours unless combined with something else like maybe the Little Chauncy trail. Just a thought if a Scout is looking for work.*
- b) Cold Harbor-no official steward report. Bob installed new map on kiosk that Kathy Joubert had printed for us, but the plexiglas cover is still damaged from an earlier attack by vandals. Matt Scott's buttressing of the map box is still holding strong, but the map box does need to be cemented in place eventually.
- c) Jubilee-Forest reported that Jubilee is in good shape. Guest (Tim) noted that the actual trail entrance is not obvious from the location of the kiosk. Additional clarification may be needed to point hikers to the actual trail head.
- d) Edmund Hill-all trails in fine shape per Forest. New bridges working well. Forest will be starting up a weekly hike at the Senior Center most likely on Thursday mornings. Once time is confirmed, George will have an announcement on the local cable access TV. New kiosk constructed by Forest is in place with hand-crafted shingles courtesy of Alan Gustofson's vintage shingle machine. Thank you guys!
- e) Coyote/Bird Song/Old Farm-George did some maintenance along Coyote and Bird Song with hand clippers. Need to get mower or brush trimmer into Bird Song. Bridge still needs to be moved back in but Claude repositioned cinder blocks for easier stepping. Tree down on Bird Song Trail but it is not really difficult to get around. We need to see if DPW can inspect large bridge that crosses the Assabet where the trail runs parallel to Hudson St. Could we get

funding to replace bridge and also fix the steep sections of Coyote that (practically) drop off into the river? Also, there used to be a sign near the start of the trail instructing hikers to stay left (near the river) and not to walk up on the grass closer to the houses. Could not confirm if the sign is still there.

- f) Stirrup Brook-Meadow needs to be mowed. Beaver flooding still an issue but doesn't seem to be getting worse. Need better bridge across wet area and Tim reported that another bridge (closer to Rt. 20) was unstable causing him to go into the water. Tree down near sewer easement needs to be cut up, it is difficult to get around. Bob will get tree out of way while cutting up logs at site of Eagle Scout project.*
- g) Watson Park-Steward Jim wants to install very large signs that will direct hikers across the expanse behind the pump house. Bob will contact Andy Clark at Expose Signs to see if he can help us. Jim had an idea to make signs harvested (not sustainably) from a red plastic mop bucket. All were in favor of Jim proceeding with the mop bucket source in parallel with contacting Expose Signs. Also, we discussed the possibility of making a loop trail on the end of Watson Park Trail near Ridge Rd. It seems highly probable that the terrain is suitable for a small loop trail.*
- h) Cedar Hill/Little Chauncey/Connector Trail/Sawink- Need to check boardwalk repair from John Murphy's efforts with the special needs adults. Marielle noted that gaps between the boards are dangerous for bikers. Grass needs to be mowed as well along Little Chauncy and Connector. Connector is difficult to access so Bob will try to contact MWRA to see about gaining access near the MWRA Treatment Plant.*

Old/New Business

- NTC Website Update
 - Our new webmaster, Jim Stein, has a brand new website ready to install on the town's server. Jim is trying to get the necessary information to upload the website. We have contacted Kathy to see what can be done to move this along as many of the maps have errors and/or lack sufficient detail as to allow a safe hike. Claude commented that many maps do not even have a scale allowing a hiker to determine distances.
 - Jim has many ideas that he wants to implement, but the delays in response from the town are lengthy and have effectively halted progress.
- Eagle Scout Project I-Chapin Canal Historical Feature at Yellick
 - Scout: Harry Silverstein. NTC Liaison: Marielle Stone.
 - Marielle is waiting on response from Kara or Fred on removal of trash pile blocking access to the historical feature. Heavy equipment (at least a Bobcat and probably better would be a backhoe) is needed to get the waste materials out of the Canal.
 - Harry Silverstein forwarded a draft of his proposal to Marielle and she replied with comments and clarifications. Harry will resume working on the project in September.

- It was mentioned that perhaps a local waste hauler would be willing to donate dumpsters for segregation of the materials in the waste pile as it is being removed from the Canal.
- Eagle Scout Project II-ARHS Nature's Classroom
 - Scout: Andrew Savarese. NTC Liaison: Claude Guerlain
 - Andrew toured site with Principal Tom Mead from ARHS last Thursday along with Claude. Mr. Mead thought highly of the location and design of the project.
 - Andrew expects to install several picnic tables in the area as well as trail signs to direct hikers to the area. Work will commence in October.
 - Mr. Mead is aware that Bob will cut up some dead logs in the area and fell some dead standing pines and limbs overhanging the site.
- Applefest 2010: September 11 (rain date September 12)
 - George noted that two areas are reserved for the NTC, SVT (Sudbury Valley Trustee's) and OSC (Open Space Committee). Scott and Claude will start setting up the canopy, table and chairs at 8:30 a.m. George will be assembling maps and other literature for the attendees. Bob will break it all down at the end of the day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mihalek, NTC Chair (in lieu of Nancy Kellner, Secretary)