



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Trails Sub-Committee

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Approved 11/19/12

MONDAY August 20th, 2012
Northborough Trails Committee
Police Station Meeting Room

Minutes

Attendees: Bob Mihalek, George Curtis, Forest Lyford, Bill Coder, Claude Guerlain, Marielle Stone

7:04 p.m. Bob opened the meeting.

Applefest Discussion:

The meeting began with an Applefest update from George Curtis. Mr. Curtis mentioned that the NTC application for an Applefest booth space had been submitted with a check and the check was cashed, so we are all set for the booth space. It is anticipated that the booth will be located on an “end cap” in close proximity to the start of the Stirrup Brook trail at the upper parking lot of ARHS. NTC volunteers led by Nancy Kellner will attempt to place a storybook walk along the trail for Applefest participants to follow along.

Aqueduct Trail Plans:

Next, the meeting was turned over to William (Bill) Coder so he could update the NTC on activities surrounding the planned opening of sections of the MWRA aqueduct that runs through the eastern portion of Northborough from the Marlborough/Northborough town line up to the Northborough/Berlin town line. Bill, along with Northborough Town Planner Kathy Joubert, met with representatives from the MWRA on July 7th to discuss the process for opening the aqueduct to public access. The MWRA wishes to grant Northborough a license to open the entire 4.2 mile length of the aqueduct and then leave it to our internal mechanisms to determine the best way to go about the opening. Bill stated that the MWRA will require two documents: an access plan and an emergency plan. The access plan will have to be created *de novo* whereas a template may exist in the MWRA archives for the emergency plan. NTC volunteers agreed to create and circulate a rough draft of an access plan, edit the rough draft, then forward the edited draft to Kathy Joubert for her expert analysis.

Green St. Property

The group then began to discuss plans for the newly acquired property on Green St. Plans were discussed for methods to allow hikers/bikers, etc to pass through the meadow in such a manner as to not interfere with the cows that are grazing in the meadow. Several options were revealed that would allow people to pass through the

meadow but, simultaneously not allow the cows to escape to the road. The NTC members also realize that we need to await the decision from the town about the long-term presence of the cows and then work around that decision. In the meantime, plans are already in progress for making a trail through the forested section of the parcel. A trail route has been flagged in the forest. The route needs one more final check before a general notice is sent out for a work party to clear the woody debris from the trail route and to officially flag the trail. This activity is planned for the fall.

Trail Status:

- Marielle reported that the Little Chauncy trail was mowed in June, but may be in need of another mowing.
- Forest mentioned that the Connector trail may be in rough shape. We will try to get the mower out there this month.

8:40 p.m. Adjourn
Respectfully submitted,

CC Town Clerk; Town Administrator; Conservation Commission; Chief Mark Leahy; Parks & Recreation Commission; Appalachian Mountain Club