

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2010

Location: Temporary Town Hall, Room 34

Attendees: Brandon Goodwin (BG), Doug Quigley (DQ), Steve Morris (SM)

Associate Attendees: Louie Berthiaume (LB), Richard Paradise (RP)

Absent: Pat McGarrah (PM), Randy Redetzke (RR)

Other Guests: Tom Chamberland (TC) (PLAC/USACE)

1. 6:05 PM call to order
2. Reviewed meeting minutes of June 10, 2010. SM motion: Motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2010 as written, DQ second, Approved 3/0.
3. Trails Committee Charter /MOU – No Update
4. Appointment of officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary) – Discussion postponed until when all members can attend.
5. Long term priority planning – Discussed the need to create a new list of prioritized projects, need both short term and long term. Short term are things we can work on immediately, long term are things that involved more planning. A number of different projects were discussed and it was verbally agreed upon that the GTT should be the focus. The list creation was pushed to the next meeting. TC will bring a GTT map to the next meeting. Members will try to walk GTT before next meeting.
6. TLGV grant (Trolley Line) usage plan – TC reported that grant was submitted. Pushed the discussion of stock piling gravel to the next meeting. Members will try and walk the Trolley Line trail before next meeting.
7. Schedule River Lands walk for route planning – Scheduled July 18th at 1pm on Holland Road. Goal is to become familiar with property.
8. Schedule Arbutus Loop route marking walk – Scheduled July 15th at 5:30pm at the kiosk. Goal is to become familiar with the west side of the arbutus loop and brainstorm on possible options for the trail.
9. Adopt a Trail - Bob Brier request – (Application attached) Discussed if assigned section of trail should be finished or unfinished. There were no issues with unfinished trail being assigned as long as the assignees were made aware that it was unfinished. This feedback will be shared with the ConCom.
10. Bay State Equine Rescue Trail Ride – (Permit attached) Discussed, no issues as long as they fix anything they damage. SM motion: Motion to support issuing permit to Bay State Equine Rescue as written, DQ second, Approved 3/0.
11. Leadmine Mt Forestry Cutting Plan Public Hearing July 15, 2010 – (Forest Cutting Plan Application Attached) Discussed, no concerns.
12. Belanger property easement – No update
13. WPI project list discussion – No update at this time.
 - a. River Lands trail & culvert
 - b. River Lands Parking Lot
 - c. Temporary Bridge 7 loading
 - d. Bridge 1&2 loading
 - e. Leadmine MT Pipe Line Parking Lot
14. Review Monthly Trails Status Report – (Presented by TC, Report Attached)
 - a. Grand Trunk Trail
 - a. DCR Grant - Town meeting with Amanda Lewis from the state. Amanda would like to review results of DCR grant as well as tour the other trails in town.

- b. Mentioned that next step for Trolley Trail is a permitting walk to cross the wetlands.
 - b. HPP Grant – Morse agreement, Engineering RFP award – TA working on finding funding.
 - c. Heins – signage, ADA trail adjustments –
 - a. Discussed passing GPS tracking of trails to Rick Skinner.
 - b. Need to schedule one more session of UTAP on the Cabin Loop and Stafford trail.
 - c. The pond loop trail might need one load of gravel. TC will see if he can find one.
 - d. The contractor that damaged the trail, cleaned up the trail, but didn't fix the bridge. BG will contact Erin to see if he will be fixing the bridge as well.
 - d. Leadmine Mountain – crossing A&B
 - a. RP stated that he and Denise Paradise finished the bridge at crossing A.
 - b. TC stated that the timbers need to be restacked at Crossing B.
 - e. Riverlands
 - a. TC stated that he asked Greg Morse to mow around the shed now that it is complete.
 - b. Discussed that the shed area still needs to be cleaned up. Scheduling a date will be postponed until the next meeting.
15. Trails Webpage Update – Discussed upload of previous meeting minutes, SM will load at end of meeting.
 16. T Shirts - Discussed low number of support shirts left.
 17. Savers Bank \$1910 Grant – Discussed how the money would provide the most bang for the buck. Examples mentioned were creating promotional material, a booth sign, etc.. No decisions made. Discussion pushed to next meeting to discuss trail marketing.
 18. Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Update – TC reported that the Town Planner approved the bid documents and have been passed on to the Town Administrator.
 19. PLAC status update – TC reported that the PLAC charter was submitted to the selectmen. Based on charter, PLAC will be an advisory committee.
 20. Shed status – TC reported that aside from some staining, the shed was complete. National Public Lands Day Sept 25, 2010 planning – Discussed best places to have work crews. Northern Tree will be working on the Riverlands. There will also be a ribbon cutting on the GTT at Westville for the DCR grant. Suggested that work crews do minor clean up at Heins and on GTT at Westville. Decision pushed to next meeting.
 21. New Business –
 - a. TC mentioned Tread Lightly organization. They promote responsible outdoor recreation. We should investigate them to better understand how we can use them as a resource. As an example, they have a good repository of signs that we might be able to access. Website is www.treadlightly.org.
 - b. LB asked about Town hall move. TC mentioned that it was planned for sometime in August.
 - c. AS requested, DG bought pizza and soda for students back in June. Committee members split the bill.
 - d. RP mentioned that Greg Morand from Sturbridge Towing is open to letting us access his trailer to tow tractors. RP will investigate further.
 - e. Access to Leadmine property was discussed. An easement needs to be in place before we can cross OSV land to get to the Sturbridge gate.
 - f. TC mentioned that Erin had received info on a Trout unlimited grant. Given the timeframe, we decided no to pursue it.
 22. Next meeting Aug 12, 2010 at Temporary Town Hall room 34 6:00PM.
 23. Adjourn 7:55 PM