

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/10/12

Location: Center School Office Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Randy Redetzke (RR) (Chairman), Brandon Goodwin (BG), Richard Paradise (RP), Doug Quigley (DQ)

Associate Attendees: Louie Berthiaume (LB), Meg Germain (MG), Fritz Reeve (FR), David Vadenais (DV)

Guests: David Barnicle, David Peterkin

Commenced 7:03 pm

Meeting ended 8:55 pm

Approval of meeting minutes for March 8th, 2012 & April 12th, 2012 –Brandon makes a motion to approve the March minutes as edited, 4/0. Brandon makes a motion to approve the April minutes, 4/0.

Trolley Line Extension DCR Grant update – The Trolley Trail is complete to Brimfield Dam.

Education Grant/Gateway Trail – June 7th -9th will be the date of the workshop, the committee is hoping that the workshop fills up with other local people who have an interest in trails. The fee for the workshop is \$40. Several committee members expressed interest at being on hand to help with the trail building but not to take the course, Randy will speak with Tom regarding the Trails committee members' involvement.

Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report (TC) - There will be a meeting on Tuesday, May 22nd. The RTMPSC was told not to promote economic development because they cannot put an exact number on it. The committee passed on their revision of the Master Plan to Scott of Kay-Linn and he will provide feedback by May 27th, after which a final presentation will be made before the Board of Selectman.

Sturbridge Trails Website – Pat stated that Rob Mahlert could host the website; MG will discuss this with him. However, in the meantime she will purchase SturbridgeTrail.org and Sturbridgetrails.com domains.

Trail Mapping – Brandon spoke to a couple groups but they were expensive and not that interested. STA – Sturbridge Tourism Association may have funding available for this use. Smith and Jones might be willing to do some work. Randy envisioned a State Park type of brochure with a fold out map that shows the trail, not a GPS detail map but a map that outlines the trails, parking lot, bridge crossings, etc. Doug brought up that we need to outline what trails and features we want to do a map for on each property and provide directions on each brochure. The committee would like to have brochures at each property and at the Tourist Association Center as well.

STA Funding – The Committee is considering using this funding to generate brochures. Openstreet.org is a mapping tool used by Steve Celuzza to generate a map of the trails on the Leadmine property. BG and MG may be able to take the maps generated by Steve and make a “cartoony” map in publisher. Randy will let SPA know that we want to use funds for Brochure/Map development. Randy also expressed concern about publicizing work days too widely because we need to be prepared for volunteers and don’t want to be overwhelmed. He suggests doing more planning for work days - more than a day ahead so that we can effectively use our workforce. Need DCR approval and the projects laid out so that we can deal with a lot of volunteers. Randy proposes making a marketing sub-committee with Brandon and Meg as the leads for the committee. There was a consensus among the committee supporting the Chairman’s’ proposed Marketing subcommittee. This subcommittee will handle content and marketing. Doug Quigley will work with Steve on the detailed map, the content for the map brochures.

RRI Volunteer assistance – Rehabilitative Resources Inc. RR received interest from this group to do manual labor on trails, however we do not have a trail project available for them to work on at the moment.

Dave Barnicle has a tree company coming through to the white trail and has cleared up a lot of trees on the Leadmine property.

National Trails Day Project planning (June 2nd, 2010) – Need to finish posts on Heins, need to build bridge # 8, then gravel needs to be hauled in after the bridge is built. Bridge 8 is on the old growth trail in Camp Robinson Crusoe. The work will start at 8am –Noon. The GTTB is having a family fun/bike day on this day as well. Pat has the Trek Sturbridge banner so that we can hang it up at the Family Fun Day which runs from 2-4pm.

Conservation Agent Items – Dave Barnicle believes Erin set aside funding for the apron paving of CRC.

New Business – A church group would like to use the Heins Farm property to pull around a cart on the trails and then use the field for a square dance. It will be an all-day activity for kids. They would like to hold it on the 9th of June. The Committee expressed concern over the grass being too high but it should be able to be mowed before that. Meg Germain is up for reappointment as well as Randy, at the next meeting the committee will need to do officer elections. The Blackington property is up for sale and Randy knows the new owner and he has property across the street and wants to put a trail in, Randy is going to take a look to see if the trail is feasible. Jeff Bonja, who is on the RTMPSC, and Richard Paradise marked the west ridge trail from parking lot #1 to the proposed parking lot #2.

The BOS had volunteers they wanted to send thank yous to and they are making a form that would be signed by the selectman and would be official from the town. The committee will need to review the forms and see if they would like to use them or not.

Next Meeting –

Thursday, June 14th, 2012 at 7:00 pm – Center Office Building, 2nd floor conference room.