

## Sturbridge Trails Committee

### Meeting Minutes

**Date** – 6/14/12

**Location** – Center School Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Attendees** – Brandon Goodwin, Doug Quigley, Tom Chamberland, Louie Berthiaume, Pat McGarrah, Meg Germain, Dave & Dan Peck, Denise Lachapelle, Richard Paradise, Randy Redetzke,

Meeting Commenced at 7:00pm

Meeting ended at 9:30

**Approval of meeting minutes for May 10, 2012** – Doug makes a motion to accept minutes, Brandon Seconds, 4/0

**Election of Officers** – RR says he can continue in the position of Chairman as long as he has the support of the rest of the committee regarding projects that need to be completed. Doug makes a motion that RR be re-elected as the chairman, Brandon be re-elected as vice chairman and MG be elected as secretary. Richard seconds the motion, vote 5/0.

**Education Grant Gateway Trail** – 12 members completed the training course and it went over very well, the participants commented on what a good workshop it was and shifted their view of trail construction. Participants viewed an unauthorized trail under construction on Leadmine which was poorly done and provided a good example of a poorly constructed trail. Indoor classroom at the Legion and on the second day they toured the Leadmine property trails. Woody was very impressed with the trails that were constructed. Saturday they started at Leadmine and Woody had a comment about the pressure treated wood on the bog bridge and said that it was not the best wood to use. Mar Tab? Showed up to make sure that the course was legit. And they were very impressed by the instruction. Dan Peck is interested in completing another section of the Gateway trail as part of his Eagle Scout Project. This is a single track mountain biking trail that allows beginners to practice their mountain biking skills. Dan is going to get a group of friends on 3 consecutive weekends and help build a section of the Gateway trail, Dan would like to do the project some time in Sept. or Oct., several committee members expressed concern over safety and want to make sure that safety clothes (i.e. orange clothing) be worn even though hunting is prohibited on the property. Randy makes a motion to accept Dan Peck's Eagle Scout project and assign Louie to have Louie as a liaison with the project, Brandon seconds the motion. Unanimous acceptance.

**Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report (TC)** – a presentation was held last Thursday with the board of selectman which went very well. The BOS are in the driver's seat on the project and will dictate how the project moves forward over the next few months. Tentatively July 23<sup>th</sup> is the date for the public hearing on the Master Plan. Meeting on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month, the committee needs to review the document thoroughly and point out any corrections to Scott.

**HPP TEA Grant, River Rd Sidewalk / trail extension** – BG has not been able to talk to the owner of Yogi Bear campground. The state highway has informally asked the Army Corp of Engineers to take over the project. The Army Corp of Engineers is looking into how to approach the project. TC does not know what restricts will be put on the project by Mass Highway. The process is at a standstill till this is worked out.

**Sturbridge Trails Website** – up in the air

**Trail Mapping** – Jean Bubon expressed concern that we do not have maps and she is using town mapping funds to make a map of the route of the GTT through town and it will be in GIS data and it will be color coded.

**STA Funding** – The funding needs to be allocated in the next two weeks. Dave Barnicle has submitted the revised Heins Farm brochure for printing. We need to work out the correct trails on the Leadmine property so we can have an accurate map to print for a brochure. We need to mark the trails properly before can map the property properly. We need a map of Leadmine property with boundary lines. The committee is not going to try to put together a map in the next two weeks to meet the deadline however making a quality map of Leadmine and a brochure to promote the property will be a goal for the coming year. We need to go through steps and determine which trails needs signs stating “you are leaving a marked trail” and determine if there is funding for signs. TC does not believe there is funding for signs. TC is going to approach STA about funding signs for the Leadmine property.

**Chamber of Commerce Hike request** – The Chamber has asked if we would host a hike on July 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of July, RR thinks we could get someone to lead a hike and they wanted to have someone from YMCA talk about health and fitness and maybe provide healthy snacks. We could promote the event on the website, etc.

**SLAM sign posting request** – Sturbridge Lyme Awareness of Mass would like us to put up a sign about Lyme disease awareness out on the Heins Farm & Leadmine trail properties. The group feels as if putting a sign in the Kiosk is a good compromise.

**Bridge 8 construction schedule** – RR suggests setting a work day for the completion of Bridge 8 – Work day is set for June 30th @ 8:00 am.

**Tree clearing update** – All the trails on Leadmine are clear except the end of the white trail.

**Conservation Agent items** – no update

**Old Business** – TC – the state is going to give \$200,000 to assist with tornado cleanup. There is tree debris on the trolley trail and the Arbutus trail, the Riverlands and on the west side has debris that needs to be hauled out. TC estimates \$30-50,000 for debris clearing and another \$10,000 for the trail surface.

**New Business** – RR – Conservation Commission has a request from the “Happy Trails, Happy Tales” is requesting to have an equestrian ride on the Leadmine property on August 19<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of August 26<sup>th</sup>TC proposes that there is a stipulation that any trail damage caused by the group be repaired.

Brandon makes a motion to approve, Richard seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. RR received an e-mail from a group wants to put a geocache on the Leadmine property near the West Ridge Trail. The trails committee feels its minimal impact and will encourage people to us. RR makes a motion that they support the geocache request from XYZ, Brandon seconds this. 5/0. TC has a flyer from the Holland trails committee is holding a trail hike to promote there trails, mention the Hike and Bike event.

**Next Meeting – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**