

# Sturbridge Trails Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3/8/12

**Location:** Center School Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Reeves (FR), Dave Vanenais (DV)

**Absent:** Tom Chamberland (TC), Pat McGarrah (PM)

**Other Guests:** David Peterkin

Commenced at 7:00 pm

Adjourned at 8:47 pm

**Approval of Meeting minutes for February** – Brandon moves to accept as edited, Richard seconded.  
Vote 4/0

**Tree clearing update** – Concom approved removing the trees along the rock wall when you come in on Shatuck Rd. Will not schedule, Phil Cambo of Northern Tree may be willing to do it.

**Trolley Line Culvert Update** - Culvert is installed, total cost was \$350 dollars - will be pulled from betterment funds.

**DCR Grant for Trolley Line Extension** – DCR has been working diligently on the extension; it is graded and looks nice. Almost at completion.

**FY2013 Funding requests** - No CPA requests this year for the budget. Erin maybe asking for some money out of her budget out of betterment. STA – Sturbridge Tourist Association gets money from the town and they can allot it as they see fit, maybe available to use for development of maps and brochures. The “T” grant is at the 25% design stage, will cost +300,000, if we want to continue to spend money we have to match %25 at \$11,000. We may be able to use STA funds to pay for the continuation from Farquhar Rd. along River Rd. to Rte. 84. We need to pay for the assessment, etc. Someone needs to meet with Greg Morse, communicate with CME and get an estimate and work with Erin and the State to extend the trail. The “T” grant is for out to rte. 84. The STA funds will not

be finalized till late fall. Randy requested money out of the betterment funds for paving the aprons at the Heins Farm entrance way.

**Education Grant** – We have the grant and the form is with Shaun for signing. The trail training session will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

**Gateway Trail** – This will be a mountain bike trail, in single tract form, that will be accessible for beginners, more experienced bikers and hikers as well. To be built during trail building training in Sturbridge.

**RTMPSC** - Next meeting March 13<sup>th</sup> and then March 27<sup>th</sup>. 408 responses in total to the survey. Working on the final plan. RR suggests that the committee members overlook the map and see what is a priority that they want on the final plan. The RTMPSC decided on plan 3. It will be a long term goal but how are we going to handle the trails that we build on the town owned property? They will provide feedback for what people want in town. Every type of trail. Randy will send out a copy of the results.

**CPA Discussion** – The residents who were spear-heading doing away with the CPA were able to get enough votes to put it on the ballot.

**Spring Work Day Planning** – Trails signs for Heins Farm and the Leadmine property will be installed on Friday. April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Installing locator signs. 4x4 signs with a locator so that if people get lost they can call 911 and be located. Finish bridge 7 screws – Louie is planning on doing this tomorrow. The local cable TV will be filming the signs going in. Bridge 8 – the Tantasqua high school kids may build this bridge on Arbutus trail. There is debris on Arbutus trail that needs to be removed. RP – Got approval for an extra 30 feet of bog bridge. Richard will come up with a plan with Erin and make an estimate of costs. This work will be done on one of the spring work days. RP also got approval for a bridge on Heins Farm where the culvert near the pond that keeps getting plugged up. Randy suggests this waits till fall.

**Old Business** - RP – ConCom voted to remove two members of the committee and replace them with a resident to act as a liaison, this was proposed to the TA.

RR – We don't have any good maps. Erin replied that she does not have time to draw up a map. We need a map for the police and maybe we can put the same map with the markers on the brochure. The concept is that we need a nice map for Heins Farm and Leadmine. May be possible to get funding from the STA – Sturbridge Tourism Administration. Get a map together and a brochure as well.

Prisoner Release Program – RP states that the Governor cut all the extra funding to four sheriffs in Massachusetts, the veto was override. This is in limbo. Funding may not be available. TC had participated in a second meeting with the Sheriff.

**New Business** – TC is carrying a lot of the weight on the trail projects currently and is asking the other people (they need not be on the committee) to take up the torch for certain properties. TC is proposing that a two people take the reins on a particular property (i.e. Riverlands, Trolley Trail,

etc.) Some committee member expressed the concern that they do not hold as much experience as TC or have the necessary contacts, they would like Tom to establish current initiative and contact sheet. Groups need to establish new initiatives and establish a future plan. The groups will bring the list of objectives and the committee will decide on priorities and if funding is needed Randy can assist once estimates are established. The two peoples are the coordinators, handling activity lists and pushing things forward and getting things done. TC is not on a specific item but will help facilitate the individual groups and support them. The individual handling each property is as follows:

- **Grand Trunk Trail** – Pat McGarrah and Brandon Goodwin
- **Riverlands** – Doug Quigley and Dave Peterkin
- **Heins Farm** – Richard & Denise Paradise
- **Leadmine** – The East side will be handled by Louie Berthiaume and Fritz Reeves

The West side of Leadmine will be handled by Richard and Dave Vadenais

Suggestion for “T” grant – from Richard Paradise – a canoe launch near 84 – he thinks that Sturbridge Tourism would love this. Randy thinks that canoe launch on the Shepard parcel was rejected; he heard from TC that it was not going to happen because of the endangered species. Randy also pointed out that that the “T” grant is only for trail extensions.

BG suggested putting up an excel Google doc. That is accessible to all committee members. Setup a website for Trek Sturbridge with contact information available, have more people active. RR will speak to Shaun regarding setting up a separate Trek Sturbridge website for information. To have Randy discuss with Shaun a separate webpage linked to the Sturbridge Tourism Association and providing info on our trails - Richard made the motion to approve this, Brandon Seconded. Vote 4/0. Meg will be in charge of website.

BG – The GTTB will hold a Family Fun Day on National Trails Day – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

#### **Next Meeting –**

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.