

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/12/12

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

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

Associate Attendees: Tom Chamberland (TC), Louie Berthiaume (LB), Dave Vadenais (DV), Meg Germain (MG)

Absent: Brandon Goodwin (BG), Pat McGarrah (PM), Fritz Reeves (FR)

Other Guests: David Barnicle, Dave Peterkin

- Call to order at 6:04 pm
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Agenda

1. Call to order & quorum check
2. Approval of meeting minutes for December 08, 2011 (MG)
3. Conflict of interest law
4. Tree clearing update
5. Count the rings contest
6. Hamant Brook culvert removal update
7. Trolley Line culvert update (TC)
8. Bog Bridge approach
9. Trolley Line grant closeout (RR)
10. FY2013 funding requests
11. Education Grant
12. HPP TEA Grant Update
13. Conservation Agent items
14. Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report (TC)
15. Correspondence from Don Miller & David Holand
16. Old Business
17. New Business
18. Next meeting

Approval of meeting minutes for December 8th, 2011 – Meeting minutes are accepted with the correction of the spelling of Hamant Brook. The vote 2/0, one abstention.

Conflict of Interest Law - Brandon Goodwin & Pat McGarrah to complete.

Tree clearing Update – Trees are still down on the Arbutus park trail into Camp Robinson Crusoe, and on the white trail as well, need to organize a tree clearing. TC proposes putting screws on bridge seven at the same time as the tree clearing. RR suggested having this tree clearing day on Sunday Jan 29th at the CRC parking lot near the white gate starting at 9:00 am, the group agreed to this date and time.

Count the rings contest – David Barnicle said there was only one person who submitted a count for the Count the Rings contest. So the ConCom decided to throw the submission in with the Decorate - A- Tree contest, twenty one people submitted entries, and award the prize to whoever was pulled from this lot of people. The committee was in concurrence with this decision.

Hamant Brook Culvert Removal update – Greg did not have a chance to do this yet, TC will talk with Greg about this.

Trolley Line Culvert Update (TC) – Greg has expressed an interested in doing this work but he does not believe he has the proper equipment to complete this work, he is going to get an estimate for the equipment.

Trolley Line Extension DCR grant update (TC) – The funding has been released for the USACE to hire Jepson to do the work.

Trolley Line grant closeout (RR) – All the paperwork was submitted but RR has not heard anything from The Last Green Valley. RR with follow up with Barb to make sure she has not received a check.

Bog Bridge approach – Still needs to be completed however the ground is not firm enough to drive on and the stone dust is frozen. This project is on hold till the weather warms up.

FY2013 Funding requests – TC is working with Erin to have the CRC parking lot paved using the CPC funds. Greg is looking over the plans, however there are concerns that the plan calls for an extension on the roadway and he does not want to run into ledge. Greg needs to work up estimates for material. Erin needs to submit a request to the CPC for the funds.

Education Grant – TC stated that we have received this grant; TC just needs to modify the grant with misc. expenditures. TC has submitted to Erin and Scott the suggested area where the mountain bike trails will be located on the Leadmine property. Scott is in the process of coming up with a more detailed plan to submit to ConCom and Fish and Wildlife.

HPP TEA Grant Update - TC states that CME has submitted a bill to the town indicating that the design is at the 25% design stage. The town has not approved the bill because they have not seen the plans. This may be an issue that Erin needs to address.

Shepard Parcel Canoe Launch – RR suggest that we let the Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee decide where a viable canoe launch could be placed. RP makes a motion that the Trails

Committee supports the idea of the Canoe Launch and proposes that the RTMPSC adds this to the agenda. Vote 3/0

Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report (TC) - TC states that an e-mail was sent to him stating the committee did not do a good enough job promoting the survey. TC sent it out again and encouraged people to send it to as many others as possible. MG will post flyers with tear-offs at several public locations in town. The RTMPSC should receive the results on the survey on the 24th of January.

Correspondence from Don Miller & David Holand – The committee wants to make it clear that most of the work we are doing is upgrading trails that already exist in town.

Annual Report – Annual report is due on Feb 10th must be submitted to Judy Knowles and must be in Times New Roman, size 12 font. David Barnicle suggested rewriting the wording on the signage so that it sounds like the trails committee is being proactive in taking advantage of the BOS approval. He believes this will present the committee in a more positive light to the general public. Richard Paradise makes a motion to authorize the Chairman to submit the annual report with corrects. Motion seconded by Doug, vote 3/0.

Prisoner Release Program – TC states that one of our benefactors, Phil Cambo, is making a proposal to the Worcester County Sheriff where prisoners are in their pre-release program (in which they are working or learning a skill). Phil would like to take a number of these prisoners and train them in the use of chainsaws, tree clearing, etc. Phil reached out to TC to see if there would be interest by the town to work with this program. TC, Phil and the founder of Arbor Master (who trains people in safely taking down trees, equipment use, etc.) had a meeting today. Arbor Master would be developing the curriculum for the prisoner pre-release program. Ben Belisle, who works in the Hampden Sheriff County to oversee prisoners, could supervise the project. TC submitted an e-mail to Erin today asking if this would be a viable program for the town, Erin forwarded it to Sean. The prisoners could potentially help with trails or building bridges. Ken and Ben are going to develop a whitepaper to detail what the program would be like. TC and Phil are working to estimate cost for equipment and maintenance of the program and looking into possible grant options. TC would like to have a meeting with the Sheriff of Worcester County in March to solidify things. The Trails Committee is unanimously in favor of this project proposal.

Conservation Agent Items – ConCom is working on a comprehensive Land Use Policy, RR suggests that it would be good to have representation from the Trails Committee present. David Barnacle states that the ConCom is trying to define their role for Land Use. They would like to define a large overarching policy for land use and also specific policies for the various properties (i.e. Leadmine, Heins Farm). TC states that at 7:00 pm, on the 19th, the Concom will address bridge 8, crossings C & D, Bridge 4 removal, and the invasive species removal and culvert repair. Fish and wildlife believes that the current bridge abutments on bridge 8 are too close to the former bridge 8 abutments. TC believes Fish and Wildlife will allow them to use the smaller blocks but wants a 15 foot separation between the old abutments. TC

states that this should not be a problem. This will all be addressed on the 19th at 7:30pm by the Conservation Commission.

Old Business – Bridge 7 – the building inspector inspected it and noted that the screws were not installed but did not see any real problems. Once the screws are in the bridge then TC will ask for something in writing. The bridge on west ridge has not been seen. Update on signs – the BOS approved the internal signs in December. Erin stated that the lowest bidder for the sign stated that their prices will hold from last May, the estimate was under \$1,400. TC and Erin will meet next week to agree on the amount of signs, cost of signs, etc. The high school, which is helping construct some internal signs, will provide us with an estimate of the cost of materials. The selectman asked if the committee is working on off property directional signs, TC stated that this is being held off because we would like to promote Heins Farms, Leadmine and Riverlands. TC took a design for just a Heins Farm sign to the BOS, DPW, etc. The DPW approved this but did not want it on the RTE 20. Island. RR suggested another sign at Heins Farm to identify it. RR suggested the purchase of property, two small parcels of land owned by the Seaman's Company, off Holland Rd. for a parking lot to the TA.

New Business – RR is having an issue getting to meetings at 6:00pm on Thursdays, he proposes moving the meeting back to 6:30 or 7:00. RP makes a motion to move the meeting time to 7:00pm, Doug seconds. Vote 3/0

Next Meeting –

- Conservation Committee – Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm
- Tree Clearing – Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 9:00 am, meet at the CRC parking lot
- Regional Trails Meeting – Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:00 pm, Holland Town Hall
- Sturbridge Trails Committee – Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm, Center School Office Building