

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/8/11

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

Attendees: Doug Quigley (DQ), Richard Paradise (RP), Brandon Goodwin (BG)

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

Absent: Randy Redetzke (RR) (Chairman), Pat McGarrah (PM), Fritz Reeves (FR), Dave Vadenais (DV)

Other Guests: David Barnicle, Dave Peterkin

- Call to order 6:02 pm
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Agenda

1. Call to order & quorum check
2. Approval of meeting minutes for Oct 13, 2011 (DQ), and November 10, 2011 (MG)
3. Conflict of Interest Law
4. Welcome to Meg Germain
5. Tree clearing update
6. Count the rings contest
7. Bridge 7 update
8. Hamant Brook culvert removal update
9. Trolley Line culvert update (TC)
10. Bog Bridge approach plan
11. Trolley Line grant closeout (RR)
12. FY2013 funding requests planning
13. HPP TEA Grant Update
14. Conservation Agent Items
15. Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report (T C)

16. New Business
17. Next meeting

6:03

Approval of meeting minutes for Oct 13, 2011 (DQ), and November 10, 2011 (MG) – The Oct. minutes were accepted. For the Nov. meeting minutes Richard Paradise is listed as an associate member, MG will correct this. The Nov. minutes were approved with this change.

6:05

FY2013 Funding Requests-

TC stated that the budget forms were sent out and the deadline has passed for budget decisions. TC and RR put in a request for \$1,500 dollars for building a gravel parking lot for the Leadmine property near the kiosk off Old Sturbridge Rd. No easement is in place, however, TC is hoping for an easement from OSV to build a parking lot by Feb. This could be funded by CPC. The other item is \$4,500 dollars to pave the parking lot apron for the Hein's Farm and also an apron for the Trolley Trail Parking lot. On the conservation agent side, they have applied for a part-time position of 20 hours for a trails coordinator. Last item – Erin and Leslie did meet with Jean Joel, the town accountant and they have a detailed account of all the monies in the trails committee account. There is plenty of money already available to do projects next year. An executive decision was made by RR on these items. A motion was made by BG to support the budget decisions made by RR and TC, the motion was seconded by DQ and passed by the committee. Vote: 3/0

6:16

Conflict of Interest Law-

BG, RP and PG need to complete the online course.

6:17

The committee welcomes Meg Germain

6:18

Tree clearing –

West ridge trail still needs to be cleared. A trail on the Stallion Hill property needs to be cleared; Erin is making submittals with FEMA to get the money to clear this trail. FEMA did approve a lump sum bid to clean the ball field and the road to the ball field. TC does something need to be scheduled to clear the west ridge trail.

6:19

DCR grant to complete trolley trail -

TC was trying to meet with Keith but could not because of the rain, however he will be meeting with him soon. The Brimfield section from Holland Rd. to the river is ready for fine gravel.

6:21

Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC)-

The RTMPSC had a good turnout at the last meeting. However, the morning session done with the stakeholders was very poorly attended. Only two representatives were present. TC will be at the selectman's meeting, this coming Monday, to formally release the survey. Erin is in touch with First Class, who the website, and is working to post a link to the survey on the front page of the town's website. The survey will officially be released on Monday and will be available to fill out till the 20th of January. The RTMPSC will not meet in December; the next meeting will be at the end of January when the survey results should be available. Scott will be counting the results. Committee members are encouraged to pass the survey on to friends to fill out. **The survey can be viewed at the end of this document or can be found online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sturbridgetrailsurvey>**

6:27

Conservation agent items -

Erin will be going out tomorrow to do final measurements with Leslie to make sure they meet requirements. The conservation committee will hold a meeting in January in which permission will be given for us to build crossing D & C and bridge 8.

6:30

Count the rings contest -

This contest is still open. David Barnicle noted that there were a series of e-mails between the chairman of the Board of Selectman and concerned citizens about having the Decorate-a-Tree contest during hunting season when hunting is allowed on the 197 property where some of the trees are located. The pond loop trail, where some of the trees are, is not on hunting property because of its proximity to the road. David barnacle will check to see how many people have submitted entries for the Count-the-rings contest.

6:35

Bridge 7 update –

TC is asking Louie if screws need to be added to the bridge, undetermined at this time.

6:36

Hamant brook culvert removal update -

Greg has not had a chance to get to this.

6:37

Trolley Line culvert update –

This project will be pushed up to next year.

6:38

Bog bridge approach plan -

RP is going to try to stage some gravel. However, the committee will wait till spring to see if the bridge needs to be extended. Finishing the fine gravel to the pond loop trail will wait till spring as well.

6:39

Trolley trail grant closeout -

TC states that this grant is closed out and the work is done.

6:40

HPP TEA grant update -

The plans are almost at the 25% planning stage, they will be submitted by the end of the month. Mass Highway needs to look at the plans to agree to the progress, then a public hearing needs to be scheduled. The plans include a redesign of the Farquhar Rd. junction; the design should not have any environmental issues.

6:43

New business -

-David Barnicle – Are there any amendments that the conservation committee needs to approve for the Trails committee, i.e. adding a bridge, etc.? The committee agrees that we have all the amendments in place with the conservation committee to move forward with work for the coming year.

-Scott Young needs a copy of the work done by the WPI students on the Riverlands for approval.

-National Trails day – This is the first sat in June. GTTB is looking to run a Family Fun day at Westville. Brimfield will be in shape to open a 1.7 section of the grand trunk trail in time for June. Only cosmetic work needs to be done at this point.

-David Barnicle proposed adding “Old Business” to the agenda.

-MG is going to add the Meeting minutes to the website. Brandon is going to e-mail RR regarding this. MG will then follow up Tom for a good time to use his office computer.

-The Chairman of the Board is going to review the proposal for trail signs at Monday's meeting.

-David Barnicle wants to extend a thank you to the whole Committee for all the work they did this past year.



Thank you for participating in this survey designed to help guide the trail planning for the town of Sturbridge. This survey should take 5-8 minutes.

1. Please rate the following statements regarding trails in general (natural surface, singletrack, hiking, greenways, paved, winter, etc.).

	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Trails promote a healthy lifestyle and higher quality of life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails are an important piece in addressing childhood obesity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails allow users to connect with nature.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails tourism is an important tool for economical development in Sturbridge.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails are central to recreation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails are important for transportation means.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails provide an important venue for learning about history and culture.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails provide an important venue for learning about ecology and nature.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

2. Which of the following outdoor recreational activities did you and/or your family participate in at least FOUR times in the last year? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Skiing/Snowboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-road motorcycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riding ATV's | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Nordic/Cross-Country Skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Bird watching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Road Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

3. Do you use any of the trails in Sturbridge?

- Yes
- No

4. If yes, how often do you use trails?

- Daily
- 4-6 times per week
- 2-3 times per week
- Once a week
- Twice a month
- Once a month
- Four times per year
- Once a year

5. If you do NOT use the trails in Sturbridge, why not? Choose all that apply.

- There are not enough miles of trails
- The trails are hard to navigate
- I'm looking for a different type of trail
- I don't want to drive to recreate
- I do not know where the trails are
- I don't use any trails for recreation or exercise

Please review the following pictures of different types of trails (from all over the US). Below the pictures, we will ask you to rank the types of trails as to your desired trail experience.

1. Bikeway



2. Greenway/Paved Trail



3. Stone-Surfaced Greenway Trail (10-12' wide)



4. Stone-Surfaced Woodland Trail



5. Narrow Natural Surface Trail



6. Water Trails/Access to Water



6. How highly do you value recreation on the following trails, depicted above?

	Extremely Desirable	Very Desirable	Moderately Desirable	Slightly Desirable	Not at all Desirable
Bikeway (4-8' wide shoulder on roadways)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenway/Paved Trail (10-12' wide)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stone-surfaced Greenway Trail (10-12' wide)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stone-surfaced Woodland Trail (4-6' wide)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Narrow Natural Surface Trail (2-4' wide)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Trails/Access to Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Please rank your opinion on the need of the following aspects of BIKEWAY/WALKING FACILITIES in Sturbridge (Picture 1).

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
Safe Bike Lanes (striped and signed)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connected Sidewalks (used for transportation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car-Free Route to School (combination of trails, sidewalks, bike lanes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wide Street Shoulders for Bikers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designed pedestrian/bike crossings (striped, signed, cross-walks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Please rank your opinion on the need of the following aspects of a GREENWAY in Sturbridge. A GREENWAY is defined as a wide trail (2 or more people side by side) that is either PAVED or STONE SURFACED and is not steep (Pictures 2 & 3).

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
A wide trail to safely walk side by side with friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-strenuous exercise opportunity that is car-free	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easy access to interesting natural and cultural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safe scenic trail along the river	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family friendly, car-free, biking opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please rank your opinion on the need of the following aspects of a STONE SURFACED WOODLAND TRAIL and a NARROW NATURAL SURFACE TRAIL in Sturbridge. A STONE SURFACED WOODLAND TRAIL is in the woods and wide enough to walk side by side (Picture 4). A NARROW NATURAL SURFACE TRAIL is defined as a narrow trail (singletrack) that has a natural dirt surface(i.e. hiking/mountain biking trail)(Picture 5).

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
Access to nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bird/wildlife viewing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vigorous trail-based exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The opportunity to test your skills (hiking, running, or biking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An educational opportunity through signage and interpretation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An opportunity for solitude	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Please rank your opinion on the need of the following aspects of WATER TRAILS and ACCESS TO WATER in Sturbridge. WATER TRAILS are defined as a river or across a body of water such as a lake for people using kayaks, canoes, or small boats including launch and landing sites and fishing areas (Picture 6).

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
More and easier access to the Great Ponds of Sturbridge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoe and kayak access to the Quinebaug River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riverside Parks/Gathering Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More fishing opportunities and fishing access along the shore of area streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Please rate the following statements about the vision of trails in Sturbridge.

	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Trails tourism in Sturbridge can have a positive economic impact to our community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Continuous sidewalks, Bikeways/greenway/trail access, and a focus on the Quinebaug River along the Fiskdale/Rte. 20 shopping district would make Sturbridge a more liveable community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sturbridge could be a regional destination for trail-based outdoor recreation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A new Sturbridge trail system could draw visitors from both MA and CT.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sturbridge has enough safe and accessible walking and biking opportunities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sturbridge needs a plan to bring in more tourists and highlight the area's natural resources.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car-free access/safe bike access (i.e. sidewalks, lighted crosswalks) to Burgess Elementary School would lead to many more children walking or biking to school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car-free access/safe bike access (i.e. wide, striped road shoulder, lighted crosswalks) to Tantasqua Regional High School would lead to many more children walking or biking to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Would you be willing to pay for improved trail facilities? Select all that apply.

- Use Betterment and/or Community preservation funds
- Trail use fee- daily fee or annual pass
- Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion
- Vote to providing the 20% match required for most grants
- Donation to Trek Sturbridge volunteer trail stewardship group
- No, I would not be willing to pay for improved trail facilities

13. How fast do you want to fund/build trails?

- 5 years
- 10 years
- 15 years
- 20 years
- Not interested in new trails

14. How important is it to have a trail to provide connection from your home to the trail network?

- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Moderately Important
- Slightly Important
- Not Important

15. Would you be willing to volunteer to improve the trail facilities in Sturbridge?

- 4-8 volunteer hours per year
- 8-24 volunteer hours per year
- 24-40 volunteer hours per year
- 40+ volunteer hours per year
- No, I would not be willing to volunteer

16. Do you live or own property in Sturbridge?

17. Please best describe yourself/your household?

- Primary Resident
- Second home/Condo owner
- Frequent Visitor (more than 6 times per year)
- Visitor (less than 6 times per year)
- Other

18. Which of the following age groups live in your household? Select all that apply.

- Under 5 5-12 13-17 18-24 25-45 46-65 Over 65

18. Which of the following age groups live in your household? Select all that apply.

- Under 5 5-12 13-17 18-24 25-45 46-65 Over 65

19. OPTIONAL

Please provide your name, email and/or phone number if you would like to volunteer for our trail program or be informed in the Sturbridge Trail Master Plan process.

Name

Email

Phone

Thank you for your time.

Kay-Linn Enterprises is working with the Town's Trails Committee on a recreational trails master plan for Sturbridge. Please contact Scott Linnenburger via email (slinnenburger@gmail.com) with any questions or additional comments.

Done