

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/10/2011

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

Attendees: Randy Redetzke (RR) (Chairman), Pat McGarrah (PM), Doug Quigley (DQ)

Associate Attendees: Tom Chamberland (TC), Louie Berthiaume (LB), Fritz Reeves (FR), Richard Paradise (RP)

Absent: Brandon Goodwin (BG), Dave Vadenais (DV)

Other Guests: Meg Germain, Brooke Andrews, Jacquelyn Maine, Samantha Erricolo, Kaylyn Blair, David Barnicle, Dave Peterkin

- Call to order 6:34 pm
- Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

Agenda

1. Call to order & quorum check
2. Approval of meeting minutes for Oct 13, 2011 (DQ)
3. Conflict of interest law (RR)
4. Open Seats (RR)
5. Snow Storm tree clearing
6. Count the rings contest (TC)
7. Bridge 7 update
8. Hament Brook culvert removal
9. Trolley Line grant closeout (RR)
10. Bog Bridge approach plan
11. Trolley Line grant closeout (RR)
12. FY2013 funding requests planning
13. Shepard Parcel Water Trail Access
14. Conservation Agent Items
15. RTMPSC Report
16. New Business
17. Next Meeting

6:35 p.m.

Introduction of four students from Tantasqua High School who have formed an environmental group, will work with Louie next Thurs. to help spread wood chips. The high school students will get a permission letter from their teacher and also permission slips to be filled out by a legal guardian.

6:36 p.m.

Tabled meeting minutes approval

6:36 p.m.

Conflict of Interest Law – Pat, Fritz, Richard & Brandon still need to complete.

6:37 p.m.

One open seat on the committee – Meg German has submitted an application which will be sent for approval on the 14th of Nov to the BOS by the TA. Dave Peterkin is also going to submit his application in case another position opens up and is encouraged to get involved.

6:39 p.m.

Lots of trees/debris down on the trails due to storm - RR cleared the trees from the Heins Farm trail last weekend. The Arbutus trail still needs to have trees taken down. RR is requesting help to clear trees on the 19th-20th. LB volunteered to help on Sunday the 20th, so the date was set and a time of 8: 00 am to meet at the Shattuck Rd. entrance to clear trees off the Arbutus trail. The environmental group from the high school was also invited to help clear brush if they wish. Three gentlemen from Brimfield, funded by the unemployment funds, cleared the Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield near the Rt. 20 entrance. They also cleared trails on the Westville Army Corps of Engineers property. In addition they will be clearing debris off the Trolley Trail in Fiskdale.

6:40

Fritz Reeves joined the group.

6:53

Count the ring Contest – Brandon Goodwin was running the program. TC does not think anyone submitted an entry to win the contest. RR suggested cutting a section of a pine tree and placing on the Heins Farm trail so that people who are looking for the decorated trees will see the tree rings. The conservation committee is running a decorate-a-tree contest and people go out to look for the decorated trees and submit photos of themselves with the decorated trees for prizes. TC will put a blurb in the Sturbridge Times article and also local media. The environmental group from the High School will submit a flyer to local access cable so there will be a still picture promoting the scavenger hunt/ring counting. The environmental group will work on a flyer promoting the Ring count to post in the post

office, etc. The prize will be a Trek Sturbridge T-shirt and Pat McGarrah will donate a \$100 gift certificate to his bike store Bicycle Concepts.

7:13

Update on Bridge # 7 – All the railings are on, but additional screws need to be installed. The building inspector is going to inspect the bridge on Tuesday, Nov. 15th. The concrete caps need to be cut, Phil is going to do this. Final width – 7 feet, 9 ½ inches.

7:16

Hament Brook culvert removal – Culvert has been removed from the brook by Phil Cambo of Northern Tree. DPW is going to take care of the disposal. There is some galvanized metal in the brook that is not going to be removed because of the possible impact on Hament Brook.

7:20

Trolley Line Culvert update – This project has been approved by Conservation Commission, TC has approached Greg to see if the DPW. will do the work.

7:21

Bog Bridge approach plan –Gravel is needed on both ends and rocks need to be placed to hold the gravel in. RR suggested this as an appropriate project for the High School Environmental Group. TC will work out a date if they are interested.

7:25

Trolley Line grant closeout – RR is working on the paperwork for that and should be able to finish it this weekend.

7:26

FY2013 Funding requests planning – There was criticism that the trail committee was not spending its budget from last year. The committee needs to see where it stands on funds remaining and decide what to do with funds for next year. More than half of the \$5000 from the the betterment fund is gone. \$2,000 dollars remains. The bridge account is being spent on bridge 7. Need to designate funds which are not spent, which are in the betterment fund. Betterment will be reviewing how the money was spent. All budget requests need to be submitted by the 15th of December. RR proposed spending the betterment funds on the Leadmine Mt. CRC parking lot approach. However, TC states that the committee does not have the approval of Fish and Wildlife to build the CRC parking lot. RR stated that they need a solid number to present for budget approval. The plan needs to be revisited. David Barnicle will get a copy of the plan for review. RR believes it is wise to switch the committees focus from the Riverlands parking lot to the CRC parking area. The committee agrees with this sentiment. LB will get a measurement from the blacktop to the kiosk and where the town boundary is. TC is expressing the concern that the trail near the kiosk needs to be worked on when the parking lot is worked on so that no

environmental issues evolve. David Barnicle will get the plan; look at budgeting numbers for the parking lot. The storm put a strain on next year's budget. TC suggested that unallocated money for betterment be spent on signs for Leadmine trails.

7:58

Sheperd Parcel Water Trail Access - This is going to be addressed within the Recreational Master Trails Plan. RR is concerned that there is no formal canoe or kayak access. This is along rte. 15.

8:01

Conservation Agent Items – Some trees on Heins Farm may need to be removed. There is money for hazard tree mitigation on the property. It is a high priority for Erin to get out on the Leadmine property to approve river crossings. There are currently no permits that are holding up work for the Trails Committee.

8:06

Recreational Trails Master Plan Steering Committee (RTMPSC) Report - Next meeting – Nov. 22nd 7pm – The committee will be fine tuning the survey. Nov. 29th, 6:30 p.m. -There will be a special meeting to discuss the three plans and how the town will go forward; the survey will be released at this meeting. At 9:30 am TC and others will be meeting with stake holders of land in town, such as OSV, The Chamber of Commerce, etc. to have a round table discussion. From the 29th of November the committee will be looking at the various ideas put forward by the town and from the survey. They are about 8 months away from having a final plan. When the final plan is release the RTMPSC will hold a trail building course and this will be the beginning of building a gateway mountain bike course on the Leadmine property.

8:18

New Business –

David – Concerned that the upper level of the bog bridge may need to be extended further. However, this year we have had an above average amount of rainfall.

Where do we stand with signing? TC – The BOS needs to approve signs. The trail committee must wait for the BOS to either accept or reject the proposal for signs. David will speak with Erin on the conservation committee.

RR – Concerned that there is water on the Heinz Farm trail where the bench is. Richard will clean the pipe out under the trail.

Next Meeting - RR -Nov 28th **Regional Trails Meeting** – Brimfield, Dec 1st – **Southbridge GTTB Meeting**, Dec 5th **Sturbridge Special Town Meeting**, Dec. 8th - **Sturbridge Trails Committee Meeting**