

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2011

Location: Center School Office, 2nd Floor small conference room

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

Associate Attendees: Louie Berthiaume (LB), Tom Chamberland ((TC) USACE)

Absent: Pam Hoy (PH), Brandon Goodwin (BG), Pat McGarrah (PM), Fritz Reeve (FR),

Other Guests: Dave Barnicle ((DB)(Con Com)), Scott Young ((SY)(CME)), Rick Skinner, Devon Ward ((DW)(WPI)), Walter Woodington ((WW)(WPI))

6:20 PM call to order / quorum check

- WPI students DW & WW presented their Power Point Presentation on the work they did on the design of the River Lands parking area, trail section and the stream crossing. Two parking alternatives were presented along with design considerations and materials estimate. Two options were discussed for the stream crossing. Recommendation is to install a 48" natural bottom pipe. Pipe would not handle the full flow of a 25 year rain event but would back water up 6-8" over the pipe in the wetland, allowing for more retention time. Question was asked of what would happen in a larger rain event and it is believed that the backup would breach the trail in an area corresponding to another wetland or as a minimum in an area other than the culvert area posing no threat. The trail surface could be raised an additional foot if it is found to be a concern of water breaching by the pipe. Significant armoring would be required on the slopes and outfall. Discussed current available funds and potential funds after July 1. RR & TC reminded the committee that at this point we can go no farther without approval by the Town Administrator / BOS. WW & DW indicated that they would make all the data available and advise RR by email.
- TC & SY reported that the Lataille property line survey is moving forward on the HPP TEA grant work. Funding for the survey is coming from the town engineering budget as suggested by the Town Administrator and Finance Director.
- RR advised the committee that Erin Jacque (EJ) has requested the committee consider changing it's standing meeting date to the first or third Thursday of the month to assist in her ability to attend. TC pointed out that the Town Administrator / BOS have placed into the new trails charter the requirement for filming of the meeting. This leaves only two locations to conduct meetings. The first and third Thursday has the current room occupied by the Conservation Commission. It was also discussed that 45 minutes of attendance at the beginning of the meeting by EJ would be ineffective as there is significant discussion that happens through out the meeting. It was decided that the chair would request EJ review availability of the two video equipped rooms and suggest an alternative date for the committee to consider.
- RP Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 3/10/2011 as written, 2nd DQ, approved 3/0.
- Reviewed the April 16 volunteer work day preparations. No current issues. TC indicated that he has two more tractors coming so there should be a total of 5 working. Northern Tree will be working on the West side of the Arbutus Park Trail cutting back trees and brush from the trail. RR asked for confirmation that we have all permissions for this work. DB and TC confirmed that this work is approved. TC advised that the Boy Scouts will also be present. It was reaffirmed that they would be best for removing small pine trees in the field beyond bridge 1 & 2.

- Trolley Line work is waiting the arrival of the erosion control wood chip bags. Northern Tree is going to send a truck to pick them up. RR advised that he cut the required trees and blew off the first 1/3 of the trail so it is ready to receive the base materials from DPW.
- TC advised that he had met with the Morse's concerning the easement for the GTT TEA HPP grant work. They are now asking for roughly 2000+ feet of fence and a tax abatement for the trail area. TC discussed tax issue with Assessor and it is possible to get an abatement. The consensus is that the fence is not possible as they requested because of the expense, maintenance, and the additional easements that would be required. This needs to have further discussion with the Town Administrator. TC advised that CME is looking at designing the trail mostly on USACE property, but this may invoke federal NEPA issues. SY indicated that they had received notice to proceed on the survey of the Lataille boundary.
- TC reported that he met with the Con Com to present those trail work items on Leadmine Mt that do not require a full permitting process. Con Com approved the items. EJ is drafting a letter to MDFW advising them of the items. The work list will include the Phragmites removal plan as administered by the Con Com.
- RR asked DB & TC if we had MDFW approval to move forward on the tree & brush cutting along the West side of the Arbutus Park trail. Both acknowledged that we are ok to proceed.
- OSV easement – no update
- RTMPSC Update – TC reported that Morton Trails, Kay Lin, & Toole have been selected by the committee as the top 3 respondents. These names have been forwarded to the town administrator for recommendation to interview. TC noted that the bid \$ packages need to be opened prior to the special town meeting for inclusion of any additional funding requests.
- Discussed options for future work days, all agreed on National Trails Day Saturday June 4 and National Public Lands Day on Sunday September 25th.
- RR thanked LB for his work in removing the hazardous decking from bridge 5 and his work on removing the diving platform from the Old Growth Trail.
- TC gave out copies of the proposed Sturbridge Times article for May 2011.
RR motion, RP 2nd to recommend that TC submit the May Sturbridge Times article as written. Approved 3/0.
- Committee reviewed the monthly article list presented by TC. General agreement with the topics.
- RR introduced the idea of creating a single ½ sheet brochure of trails facts for the annual town meeting in the event that we feel we need to generate more support. General agreement that this would be a good idea if needed. This will be revisited at the next meeting.
- TC reported that he is working with the DPW to get future bids for equipment rental of the type needed for trail projects included with their regular annual bid request. TC also indicated he is pursuing quotes for equipment rental for work required this year.
- DB asked the committee to provide an opinion on the enhancement of dog control laws. TC explained the problems the USACE has had and that they have had to be aggressive to control the problems. Discussion was tabled for a future meeting.
- Adjourn 9:40 PM
Additional Documents:
Meeting minutes for March 10, 2011
May Trekking in Sturbridge
Monthly articles list
Monthly Trails Committee status report as of 4/14/11
WPI student presentation
Attendees list
Records maintained at Center Office Building Room 208