

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 11, 2011

Location: Center School Office, 2nd small conference room

Attendees: Richard Paradise (RP), Brandon Goodwin (BG), Pat McGarrah (PM)

Associate

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

Absent: Fritz Reeve (FR), Randy Redetzke (RR) (Chariman), Erin Jacque (EJ), Doug Quigley (DQ)

Guests: Dave Barnicle (DB)

6:13 PM call to order / quorum check

- RP Motion to approve Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2011 as written. 2nd BG, approved 2/0/1 (PM abstained)
- Discussed Tornado cleanup status. All of the completed trails have been cleaned.
- A contest was discussed to count the rings on the large pine tree that was cut down on the Old Growth Trail. BG will flag the tree so that the tree can be identified. Goal is to get more people out on the trail. TC will mention the contest in his article and DB will have flyers created.
- Discussed different strategies to cleanup trees down on Leadmine property, no decision reached or needed at this time.
- TC mentioned that there are still at least two large trees that need to be removed on the trolley line. Plan is for trail committee to cut trees and then for Northern tree to come in and remove remaining tree debris (mainly logs). BG made motion to give TC power to spend money to have large tree debris removed from Trolley Line Trail after committee drops remaining two trees. 2nd RP, approved 3/0
- Planned work to be completed on August 13-14 weekend. In spare time, trail committee members would drop two trees on Trolley line and also install beams for Stafford Turnpike bridge. On August 14th trail committee members would then install planks on bridge and also spread gravel on both sides of the bridge.
- TC announced that DCR Grant June 2011 was awarded to connect the Trolley trail to the East Brimfield Dam. Contracts still need to be signed, including a Challenge Partnership Agreement.
- Discussed New DCR Grant with an Oct 1 deadline. Mentioned that it may make more sense to get apply for a piece of equipment for this grant. Members will research different options for possible discussion during August 23rd meeting.
- Feast and Fire was discussed. Trail committee will have a booth. DB and TC volunteered to make copies of brochures to hand out at booth. New Sturbridge Trail Committee sign will be hung at booth. Also, names and emails will be collected from residents interested in learning more about trails. No one attending the meeting was interested in building a float for the parade.

- Conservation Agent Items: TC stated that EJ stated that there was no more need to look into changing the trail committee meeting night. RP wanted to report to EJ that a pipe was clogged on one of the trails and was looking for permission to clean the pipe. DB directed RP to clean the pipe. DB stated that the day after every trail committee meeting, he was providing EJ a full list of items that had been reviewed at the trails meeting. TC and EJ are also still having regular communications to keep projects moving forward.
- Discussed the plan to build a bog bridge at the Heins farm and the logistics associated with it. Plan is to build the bridge on National Public Lands Day, Sept 24th.
- Discussed the need to complete spreading the gravel on the Trolley Trail by Sept 30th, as part of grant extension. This is a priority project.
- On August 23rd and Sept 27th there will presentations by Kay Linn on the trails master plan. The August meeting is to explain what a master plan is, the September meeting is to present 3 different options to move forward. It's encouraged that as many people attend as possible. The more public involvement the better.
- New items: Discussed the Design Review Committee meetings comments on the proposed trail signs.
- New Items: DB asked if we would support the town holding the same decorated tree scavenger hunt that they did last year. The committee said that they would support it on all completed trails.
- RP Motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd BG, approved 3-0
- Adjourn 8:20 PM

Additional Documents:

Meeting minutes for July 14, 2011

Trails Work List - Updated 8/7/11

DCR grant June 2011 budget breakdown

Records maintained at Center Office Building Room 208