

Sturbridge Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2011

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

Attendees: Randy Redetzke (RR)(Chariman), Brandon Goodwin (BG), Pat McGarrah (PM)

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

Absent: Steve Morris (SM), Pam Hoy (PH), Leslie Wong (LW), Fritz Reeves (FR), Doug Quigley (DQ), Erin Jacque (EJ)

Other Guests: Dave Barnicle (DB), Savannah Redetzke (SR), Ric Skinner (RS)

6:19pm call to order

Introductions

Approval of Minutes

August 12 minutes not yet available.

BG Motion to approve the minutes for January 13, 2010. PM 2nd, vote: passed 3-0.

BG Motion to approve the minutes for January 20, 2010. PM 2nd, vote: passed 3-0.

Update on funds request submitted to Betterment Committee. Town Administrator (TA) requested further details. RR sent details to TA on 3/29/11. TA forwarded details to Betterment Committee.

Discussed monthly trails article submitted to Sturbridge Times by TC. Great for publicity and encourage people to attend trails day. DB mentioned that the readers may need more specifics regarding directions listed in article.

Access to Con Com Bridge Account was blocked by town finance office. TC approached CPC to see if it's possible to reword the article so that funds could be used for other bridges, specifically Bridges 2 & 7. PM motion to reaffirm the previously approved motion authorizing the chair to pursue funding from the CPC Committee as it pertains to reauthorization of bridge funds. Randy 2nd, Vote: passed 3-0

April 16th Work Day: Discussed TO DO list including, removal of diving platform, removal of bridge #3, removal of bridge #5 decking, Set screws on bridge #2, Seal the rails on bridge #5, spread gravel on arbutus loop, clean trolley line of debris for gravel application. The fate of bridge #4 was also discussed, remove, rebuild, fill with dirt, no decision made. It was decided that spreading gravel on the arbutus loop trail was the #1 priority and that the trolley line debris removal was the second priority. Northern Tree will be removing brush on West Ridge Trail as well, pending Con Com approval.

Projects for the church group were discussed, approximately 60 kids attend last time. DB to check and what day the group wants to work. Once we firm up the day, we'll select appropriate projects that will also allow them to learn something.

Discussed new structure approved by BOS. EJ is now the trails committee supervisor. Unsure of the specifics of the role and will discuss at a future meeting.

LB gave update on work done with Democracy in Action kids from THS. He's met with them twice, handed out trail packets and discussed different projects with them. They are interested in designing the interpretive signs.

Trolley line update: RR planning to get in there and cut the remaining trees.

HPP TEA grant update: PM called Morse, no info on easement.

Leadmine Mountain update: Discussed that Erin was lacking information on specific work projects. As a separate note, EJ asked that TC provide her with updates on the Trail Activity. The OSV easement has been approved by OSV, we're just waiting on the paperwork to be signed.

RTMPSC update: Questions received on proposal and answers have been sent out. March 15th the proposals will be opened. Plan is to narrow all proposals down to three in a month. Next meeting is March 22nd.

Discussion on Trail and property naming was tabled.

Signs update: The adopt a trail group is proposing the use of signs. Trails Committee isn't aware of the details. Discussion should be continued at a future meeting. Existing funds need to be spent to purchase marker signs for trails. PM motioned to authorize TC to proceed with acquisition of the signs as presented in the sign plan, with the appropriate approval to expend funds. RR 2nd, Discussion around pricing and funds available to optimize purchase, RR to send TC available funds data, vote: passed 3-0

Trail construction guidelines tabled.

T-shirts: Need to find a source of funds for more t-shirts especially with work days coming up.

Website: FR updated website at previous meeting.

New business: TC met with THS vocational to discuss having the students build us a bridge or shed.

New business: CMRPA –TC met with them and educated them on our local regional trails. They explained that it would be helpful if all local trail websites were similar so that we aren't confusing people. A consistent message will make it easier for us to get funds. The Titanic Rail Trail has been raised to a Tier one priority because they now understand that it is a regional trail.

New Business: TC shared new ADA literature with the group.

New Business: Mass highway now has a new engineer in District 3.

Next meeting – April 14th, 6pm.

Adjourned at 9:12pm