

Pathways Committee  
Minutes June 20, 2016

**DRAFT**

Present: Peter Cole, Jim Eisenhower, George Vanderheiden, Jim Nupp, Vaune Dugan, Mal Blodgett, Katja Fox

Also present: Bob Leavy

Meeting convened: 7:00 PM at Abenaki Lodge

1. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2015 were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Facebook and website for Committee: The Committee currently has both a Facebook page and a website (<http://www.wolfeboropathways.org/>). The website is quite out-of-date and is not actively maintained. In addition, it appears that the web address has been taken by another person, even though the website administrator, previously Art Slocum, still has control over content. The Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Wolfeboro (under Local Organizations – Pathways of Wolfeboro) websites both reportedly contain active links. The Committee discussed whether to obtain a new domain name as Friends of Wolfeboro Pathways and update the content (which has not been updated since 2011) or to delete the content from the current site and just maintain the Facebook page. Katja agreed to look into how to do both, and Jim Nupp volunteered to ask Art Slocum to call Katja.
3. Map Project: The map project has been completed. Copies of the new map were distributed. Copies of the maps are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Nordic Skier, and Black's. Peter reported that he periodically restocks the supplies. The Committee then discussed whether to have a copy of the new map replace the map that is in the kiosks at the Dock and the Chamber. There was agreement that it would be a good idea to do so. Jim Nupp will contact Dave Ford and Rob Houseman to try to arrange for replacement.
4. Grass and Weed Growth: The Back Bay trails have become overgrown with weeds in a number of places, particularly where the sun shines through the tree cover. Some of the growth are invasive species. These trails are on land owned by the Conservation Commission. Contact will be made with Dan Coons to determine whether the Conservation Commission has plans to do maintenance and to control the invasive species growth.

Sewall Woods is also experiencing a regrowth of invasive plants. As Sewall Woods is owned by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, contact will be made with that organization to determine whether the Committee should handle needed control. Jim Nupp mentioned that one of the challenges is that there are not enough qualified applicators of the control chemicals.

The LRCT will be sponsoring a program on invasive plants and their control on June 30, 2016 at the Abenaki Lodge. The program will begin at 9:00 AM.

5. Bike-Walk Day: Kathy Barnard and Barbara Laverick organized Bike-Walk Day again this year. Participation was reported as being good.
6. Bike Lanes – Main Street: The proposal to temporarily mark bike lanes on Main Street was presented to the Town Board of Selectmen and approved. Following the approval, Peter contacted the NH Department of Transportation to obtain the needed approval as Main Street is a state highway. The response of the NH DOT was forwarded to Committee members. That response noted that pavement markings were subject to meeting the Federal standards for roadway markings and that the proposed markings did not comply with those standards. The response also suggested that such markings might be approved if an appropriate traffic survey were completed. The Committee then discussed a number of alternatives including the placing of signs that clearly informed motorists that bicycles had equal rights to be in the driving lanes. Illustrations of those signs were included in the materials forwarded by the NH State Department of Transportation. Also discussed was the placement of sharrows in the driving lane. Jim Eisenhower reported that he had seen sharrows placed in the driving lane in Concord following the redoing of South Main Street. He suggest that that might be a precedent, although he questioned whether Concord’s South Main Street was a state highway, and if not, Concord may not have had to obtain NH State DOT approval. The Committee agreed that Peter should send a letter to Dave Ford, Dave Owen, and Rob Houseman containing our recommendation as to the placement of what appeared to be approved signs and sharrows.
7. New Mountain Bike Trails/Pump Park: These new trails and park will be constructed on Conservation Commission owned land adjacent to Fernald Station. Construction should start soon. The mountain bike trail is expected to be approximately five miles in length.
8. Right of Way Issue at Rust Pond: Bob Levy attended the meeting as a guest to report that a long-used right of way had been interrupted by the sale of a parcel of land and subsequent construction of a home and storage shed. The shed, for which the Town issued a permit, was constructed in the right of way. Mr. Levy reported that he was working with the new owner to establish an alternate location for the right of way and that, at times, the new owner appeared to be amenable to staking out an alternate location. He said that he would make a proposed route as a part of his efforts. He suggested that any support for his efforts would be most appreciated. While the Committee agreed that it would not formally take a position, those members who felt so inclined could work in support of Mr. Levy’s efforts.
9. New Business: Jim Nupp called the attention of the Committee to the Bridge Falls bike-walk trail crossing of Center Street and noted that a previously placed sign appears to have been removed. The Committee discussed suggestions to help improve safety at that crossing, including having a striped cross-walk in other than solely white repainted on Center Street, similar to the red and white striping that previously had been used on the cross-walk near the Wolfeboro Public Library. The Committee also discussed the placement of bollards or other type of slowing device at the point where the trail crosses Center Street to help slow the speed of bikes in particular. The Committee agreed that these suggestions should be made to Dave Ford. Peter agreed to add these suggestions to his letter to Dave Ford concerning recommendations for Main Street.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on July 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Abenaki Lodge.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.