

Wilmington Trail Committee Minutes for September 13, 2018

Present: Spencer Crispe, *Chair*; Crista Gannon, *vice chair*; John Greene, Jake White, Bob Fisher, Ann Ottaviano, Alan Baker, Joanne Yankura, John Gannon, *ex officio*

Absent: Gary Henry

Guests: Scott Tucker, *Town Manager*, Jake Roberts; *Peak Property Services*

Meeting convened at 6:07 pm

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: John Greene made a motion to accept the minutes for July 12, 2018 and August 23, 2018. Spencer seconded. All approved.
2. Public Participation: The Selectboard will be asked to consider the following appointments at their 9/18/18 meeting: Joanne Yankura as a permanent member and Jake Roberts as an alternate member.
3. Valley Trail: Preliminary assessment of the trail was performed on 9/5/18. The Mt. Snow engineers advised working around wetlands whenever possible. A project plan that describes trail work to be performed, identifies wetlands areas requiring permitting, and estimates the associated costs is still pending. The trail was mapped by Jeff Nugent from the WRC. John Greene will talk with the Wilmington Inn owner about potential ideas for improving trailhead access at that location.
4. Signage: Spence will meet with Emily Lauderdale, from the U.S. Forest Service, regarding placement of summit signs at Mt. Olga and Haystack Mountain, and to discuss the Forest Service's plan to discontinue the Forbush Road to Haystack trail. A new supply of trail signs has been ordered. Signs will be kept at Greene's Servicenter and available Monday-Friday during shop business hours. Posts and signage will be needed for a new, connecting downtown trail and trail spur. Suggested names are Beaver Brook Trail and Monument Trail respectively. Bill Hunt gave approval for replacing "No Parking" signs at the West Lake Road trailhead

- for the Primitive Trail. New signage will clearly indicate that the no parking designation is limited to winter for snowplow access.
5. Improving communications and efficiency within confines of Open Meeting Law: Email communications that focus on and facilitate committee work is allowed. Discussions that pertain to decisions, votes, and surveys are prohibited. Joanne will review the current member email list with Jessica for accuracy. Future Work Bees will be posted on the Town Website via Jessica.
 6. Review of each Town Trail for current condition, needed work, and future goals: Discussion was limited to the West End parking lot trail and the Hoot Toot and Whistle Trail. Scott Tucker suggested working with Gretchen Havreluk, chair of the Parking Committee, to coordinate with other stakeholders concerning maintenance of the parking lot trail. The first **fall Work Bee is scheduled for September 27th @ 4 pm. Meet at the West Main Street parking lot** (behind Ratu's) to work on these two trails.
 7. Ideas for more efficient/regular monitoring of trail conditions and needed work: Ideas mentioned included each member walking a trail every other month; placing a log book/suggestion box and counter to track patronage and gain feedback regarding trail conditions, pros and cons; a QR code link to a town website for collecting similar data; a Facebook minipage; using All Trails.com (website offers the ability to collect and track lots of trail-related data). No action(s) were taken and the topic remains open.
 8. Bringing more attention to the Wilmington Town Trail System: Ideas discussed included: more PR via the town website, via internet, and a future Deerfield Valley News article. As a first action, Alan will contact Jessica to discuss helping update the "Hikes and Trails" page of the town website to more prominently promote the town trail system.
 9. Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 11 @ 6 pm, Town Offices**

Crista made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Yankura