

Wilmington Trail Committee

Minutes for April 8, 2021

Members Present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Geri Kogut, Secretary, Jake White

Alternates Present: Joanne Yankura; Alan Baker

Guests:

Meeting Called to Order by Alan Baker for Bob F. at 6:25 pm.

Scheduled Agenda:

1. **Acceptance of Minutes:** December 10, 2020, accepting these minutes which had been deferred. A **Motion** was made by Joanne Y. with 2nd by Alan B. All in favor. **Motion** to accept March 11, 2021 minutes by Joanne Y, with 2nd by Jake White. All in favor.
2. **Public Participation:** Carlotta Gladding - had requested to become a TC member as well as Julie & Alex Rioux.
3. **Change in order of Agenda – #1 Re-organization** to be later in agenda - all in favor.
4. **Finance: Mowing of Trails** – One bid from Peak Properties came in for review. Members discussed proposal and amount request for service. Members commented the quality of work from the past year with Peak Properties saying the mowing was cut back further than usual which resulted in easier hikes & walks. **Motion** by Jo to accept Peak Properties mowing proposal for this season with a 2nd from Jake White. All in favor.
5. **Old Home Week Participation:** Members and public continued to share ideas for OHW with TC participation. Jake mentioned the landlocked area on Mill Street owned by the town that could involve a possible geo-cast for the standing stone there. There could be a self-guided or guided “birding” educational event. There could also be one short & one long hike using the Reardon Bridge and the Beaver Brook trails. Self-guided tours are not weather dependent. Decision on how the TC is to participate need to be reported to Nicki Steel, Chair of OHW soon. **Motion** to participate in OHW with 2 options trails as self-guided with maps & trail descriptions available made by Bob F. with 2nd from Jo Y., all in favor.
6. **Reorganization of Committee.** The Chair will ask the Selectboard to remove any TC member that has not been attending Committee meetings for a period of time or to see if resignations have been submitted from none participating members. Present interested community members, Carlotta Gladding, Julie & Alex Rioux should submit letters of interest to the Selectboard expressing their interest in becoming Trail Committee members, not Alternates, in hopes to be voted in. Officer elections and date & time of meetings will then be decided.
7. **Trailhead Signs:** Members determined there is a need to purchase all trail signs since the stock has been depleted. This includes the blue signs, hiker signs, no ATVs, etc.

Motion Bob F. made the motion to contact Jessica DeF. to reorder all signs, 2nd. by Alan B, all in favor.

8. **Downtown Trail Sign Improvement & Hoot, Toot & Whistle Trail:** Joanne suggested before looking into signage we talk with Jeff Nugent on the “Scoping Study” done in 2000. Jeff said there had been a conflict in the name & the original Bridge and the Moover area. Also, there is the potential for the HT&W to become a multipurpose trail, potential grants have been considered. The HT&W is a railroad bed at grade – a good thing. Members suggested the TC May meeting invite Scott Tucker, Gretchen H., Jeff Nugent & Rep. John Gannon to the meeting for further discussion.
9. **Mission Statement:** Question was asked of the purpose of “the charge.” Mission statement wording ideas included – the Trail Committee makes recommendations to the Selectboard on the trails on spending to actively develop & maintain the trails, to educate the public on the trail system and promote their benefit on health and promote the Wilmington Trail system in town in general.
10. **Fairview Avenue to the HT&W trail:** discussion on the parking when the gate to the lake & picnic area is closed. Ideas such as “the old dump” be used, push rocks back for more parking area, but there is no easy or ideal trail access to the HT&W trail from those suggestions.
11. **Update on Valley Trail Improvements:** An update will be planned with Scott T. & Gretchen H.
12. **Trail Updates:** Bob will clear some area on Shearer Hill Rd. **Work Bee** for **Thursday, April 22 @ 5:30** to meet at boat storage area on Fairview to clear trail areas on HT&W trail.
13. **Reroute Request by Landowner:** Bob will investigate the new landowner’s property for this request.
14. **Wildlife Festival:** a September event with TC having a possible table with maps for trail awareness. Possible presentation from the Museum. Julie will look into participation.
15. **New Business:**
 - a. Private Road sign discussion –Lake Raponda area - it is a Class 4 road, not private but not maintained by town in the winter. This will be investigated. A new home owner may have done the sign.
 - b. Julie mentioned the new mgr. with the Hermitage reminder her there is a trail from the parking lot for use. Act 250 from the Gate House requires public access but signs are needed reading “Public Access.” Connection to top of ridge/Mt.Snow.
16. **Motion to Adjourn:** was made by Alan B. at 8:18 pm with 2nd by Jo Y. **Next meeting is Thursday, May 13, 2021.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Kogut, Secretary