

Wilmington Trail Committee

Minutes for May 13, 2021

Members Present:; Bob Fisher, Chair; Geri Kogut, Secretary, Julie Koehler, Alex Rloux, Carlotta Gladding

Alternates Present: Joanne Yankura; Alan Baker

Guests: Scott Tucker, Town Manager; Gretchen Havreluk, Economic & Community Development Consultant; Jeff Nugent, Windham Regional Commission

Meeting Called to Order at 6:07 pm.

Scheduled Agenda:

1. **Acceptance of April 8 Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Joanne Y. with 2nd by Carlotta G. All in favor.
2. **Public Participation:** Jeff Nugent shared some potential grants available for use with the Wilmington trails. Discussion on several trails for multiuse pathways, those with sure pack for mobility issues. Joann & Jake Roberts had met Jeff downtown the week before to walk some of the town trails for ideas for possible grants before this meeting. There is a deadline of June 4th for a scoping study request grant. Jeff shared potential costs - a cost of a minimum of a few miles to \$45-50,000 for a whole village. Consideration as to ownership of some land & potential work with a grant. For example, the HT&W has one owner; some other land was informal approval use by a handshake. Gretchen, as liaison to the Selectboard, mentioned a 20% match required for a scoping study & this particular grant Jeff Nugent mentioned is due in 3 weeks. She mentioned there are 2 other bike/pedestrian grants & other recreational grants available. Anything going before the Selectboard should have a cohesive plan with priorities set. Alex spoke of the need for letters of support. Jo mentioned reaching our goals incrementally. Scott spoke of recreation & the trails also help push economies. Jeff said we had great trails. Further ideas & discussions needed by the Trails Committee. Bob suggested we list our priorities.
3. **Old Home Week Participation:** Jo is in contact with Nicki Steel to ensure we are participating & what she needs from the Trails Committee for her. We are planning two self-guided hikes – one easy & short, the other longer & more challenging. Alan suggested the short walk be at the Lake Raponda Trail, the town’s first trail loop at 1/3 of a mile long as a scavenger hunt. Julie talked of a “story walk” with laminated pages attached to a tree to read as you go along. Suggested story – ***Coming of the Train***. For the longer hike, Alan mentioned there are 10 geocaches along HT&W.
4. **Trailhead Signs:** a few need to be replaced. The blue markers & hikers signs are with Jessica in the Town office. There are several hundred small blue signs. Bob said all the signs were paid so the cost & payment should be in the next Finance report.

5. **Updates:** Carlotta will be attending the Welcome Wagon hike on Sunday at 2:00 pm.
6. **Next Work Bee is planned for Thursday, 27 at 5:00 PM.** It will be a walk at the HT&W trail to organize ideas for the Old Home Week self-guided hike we are planning. Trail Committee members & Friends of the Trails interested in joining should meet at the Reardon Bridge at 5:00 pm. Some ideas that might go along with that hike are- ID relics from the Hoot Toot Train area, story book walk, geocaches, and ID the flora & fauna, to name a few ideas.
7. **Motion to Adjourn:** at 7:45 pm All in favor.
8. **Next meeting is Thursday, June 10, 2021.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Kogut, Secretary