

**Wilmington Trail Committee  
Minutes for July 8, 2021**

**Members Present:** Geri Kogut (vice chair), Alex Rioux (treasurer), Julie Koehler (secretary), Carlotta Gladding

**Alternates Present:** Joanne Yankura, Alan Baker

**Guests Present:** Gretchen Havreluk, Scott Tucker, John Gannon, Meg Staloff, Eithne Eldred (public), Matt Danzico (public)

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

Welcome, and notification of new officers now in effect (see above).

Scheduled Agenda:

1. **Approve Minutes** from 6.10.21. Motion to accept by Geri, seconded by Alex, all in favor.

2. **Public Participation:**

- a. **Lisle Hill Mowing:** Public brought to attention the lisle hill mowing issue. Eithne uses the trail, asking that the trail be mowed as she uses it frequently. Joanne addressed the issue about the logging machinery in use on the trail. Logging will be continuing through the summer and into the fall. Joanne suggested seeing if Jake Roberts can get equipment to some of the trail to see if we can partially mow. Alan questioned safety issues with logging going on. Eithne also wanted to come to show support to the TC for their work on maintaining the trails.
- b. **Dog Waste Stations:** Meg brought to attention the dog waste stations. “Dog Friendly Downtown” is a group seeking to upgrade dog amenities. Plan is to have local businesses and towns “adopt” a station to manage waste. Wilmington Works will “own” and hold accountability by posting their phone number on the station. Five locations total: library, fields by OSEC, Reardon bridge, west main parking lot, end of Moover property. Alex inquired about the HTW trailhead in Fairview, Meg stated that they were looking for locations that would be suitable for year round use/access. Gretchen proposed Shafter St. Joanne mentioned the far end of Moover property, and a previous inquiry into dog waste station at this location due to lack of accountability and accumulation of trash. Gretchen stated there was a trash location at the HTW trailhead over Reardon Bridge. Meg is seeking a TC member as a liaison for this project. Funding has been approved, could start anytime. They will monitor the project and adjust location and size as needed. [Wilmingtonworks@gmail.com](mailto:Wilmingtonworks@gmail.com) is the contact email for this project. Alan stated that he supports the project. **Action Item: Joanne or Carlotta reach out to Meg as TC contact person, to confirm support, and connect if there is anything else needed from TC for this project.**
- c. **Trail Maps for OHW:** Alan brought up Meg’s inquiry about trail maps - need for a map to show the parade route and detour for OHW. Nugent has the original design. Meg stated the Chamber needs trail maps for display and for Old Home Week. Joanne and Geri stated we have a lot of both the old and new trail maps.

Joanne will contact Shawn Hammond, [shawnhammond@vt.gov](mailto:shawnhammond@vt.gov) (wilmington police). Alan mentioned maps are also available on the trails website. **Action Item: Joanne to confirm the approximate amount of old and new trail maps we have, and the approximate amount needed by Shawn Hammond for OHW.**

- d. Matt expressed his interest in public participation and joining the committee. Moved here with his wife recently and is a user of the trails, wants to help in any way needed.

### 3. Finance report:

- a. Alex has created a schedule for the next 90 days and projected expenses. Mowing will be the biggest cost and could put us in the negative. Need to submit a 1% request for DVN website, mowing
- b. Would need to add Lyle hill mowing if that is approved. UPDATE: this is already included in the mowing quote and will be completed by Peak. No further action needed.
- c. Other projects suggested are gravel on Beaver Brook trail, some work for installing fitness equipment. Jake Roberts was interested in submitting a quote for fitness installation.
- d. **Action Items:**
  - i. **Alex to reach out to Peak/Jake Roberts for a quote to install fitness equipment. Scott has contact info for John Lazelle for Dig Safe.**
  - ii. **Also check with Jake to see about cost and vendor to gravel Beaver Brook...?**
  - iii. **Also need to include Elia Hamilton quote to come walk HTW or Beaver Brook.**
  - iv. **Alex to finalize what will be included in the 1% request and work with Julie to finalize request and submit to Jess**
- e. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Geri, Alan second, all in favor.

### 4. Discussion on HTW trail improvements

- a. Joanne presented information on making a plan for the whole trail, to bring it up to a multiuse condition. Steps include to meet with excavators/trail maintenance companies, then get town support, then 1% request, then permits, then apply for grants, then check with attorney to verify any licensing requirements. Alan discussed doing it in phases. John brought up that work has been done in the past, and that Arrowwood has been in previously. Gretchen suggested to make sure that current permission forms for where the trail goes through are up to date, suggested we speak with Elia Hamilton.
- b. John stated that the TC goal of creating a family friendly trail may be better suited to another trail. John stated that the Beaver Brook may be a better focus, as HTW may be less cost effective. Alan stated HTW is most likely the most used, and Alex stated that HTW was the focus of the latest scoping study that the town spent so much money on. John again stated that there may be a better trail to focus on, taking cost into account with TC planning. Gretchen stated that it can be challenging to complete these projects, but that it may still be possible

especially if we work gradually in stages. From an economic development perspective it would benefit the town as an “experience”.

**Action Item:** Someone from TC contact Elia Hamiton at Terrain Concepts LLC, may need to contact Gretchen Havreluk for Elia’s contact info. Request that Elia send us a bid for a brief walkthrough of HTW and Beaver Brook that includes estimates for trailwork on both.

**5. Grants and Webinar:** Gretchen stated she has a call out about permitting, and that there are additional grants available (VOREC and ERSA), ERSA requires a letter of interest due August 22, final deadline of Nov 15. Recreational Trails Program is another grant requiring a 20% match (in kind donations allowed) with 50k max. The Building Communities Recreational Facilities grant is 50% match 25k max, deadline is July 31. Joanne brought up getting an estimate for Beaver Brook.

Gretchen suggested checking the state website for a 60min trail building and maintenance webinar. Here is the link:

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/news/events/town-forest-recreation-planning-webinar-series-trail-building-maintenance>

**Action Items:** Julie will connect with Gretchen and research grants above to see if they would be a good fit for either Beaver brook or HTW improvements. TC members can view the informational webinar about trail maintenance at the link above.

## **6. Old Home Week**

Featured TC contributions to include:

- geocache on HTW (need prize info and coordinates of the cache to register)
- forest loop tree identification interactive trail
- story walk on beaver brook (check with library about viability)
- short and long hike recommendations: HTW for long, and ?? for short
- Fitness equipment...? Can we get that in before August 5?

**Action Items:**

1. Julie to make brochure for OHW with info on the above activities
2. Joanne to finalize prize info and location for geocache, get with Alan to post on geocache site
3. Julie to check with library about copyright info for story walk on Beaver Brook
4. Alex to get quote from Peak about installing fitness equipment, and get date for installation
5. Julie to contact Nicki Steele about who is staffing memorial hall for OHW and figure out how we will organize our “station”
6. Joanne to bring tri-fold material to next work bee
7. Julie to contact Jess to reserve town hall meeting room for July 22, 5pm, next work Bee

**7. Approve Costs for Signs:** for new Beaver Brook Sign south main entrance, Tailor Wilkins from Dover Signs quoted us \$60 for the Beaver Brook.

Alan requested we also get a replacement sign for Raponda ridge, which would be another \$60. Alex will confirm that Dover Sign is a vendor for the town.

Alex approved this cost, Geri seconds. All in favor.

Action Item: Alex confirm that Dover Sign is town vendor by contacting Jess. Add to budget. Joanne will order Beaver Brook sign and Raponda Ridge sign and install.

**8. Mowing on Lisle hill:**

Trail was supposed to be posted as closed, but it hasn't been posted yet. White's road side is in good shape, cannot enter from Lisle hill side.

It was decided that we should still mow the trail in order to maintain it, but that we should let the public know about the logging operation. Trail will remain open for now. Lisle hill was included in Peak mowing quote, so no changes need to be made there.

Action Item: Alan to update website with information about being cautious on Lisle hill trail due to logging. Alex to confirm Peak is going to mow lisle hill as indicated in original quote.

**9. Memorial:** Geri would like to dedicate or memorialize a trail in honor of Jake White. Scott shared an email from Judy King from West Dover about a trail dedication for Jake White. We would like to share this by Old Home Week. This is done in the form of a Resolution to the Select Board.

John suggested a plaque near the tree referenced in the eulogy.

Joanne will talk with Michelle about the family's suggestion for a memorial.

Jo makes a motion to adjourn, Geri seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned a 7:45pm.