

## **Wilmington Trails Committee Meeting Minutes, 8.12.21**

Members Present: Julie Koehler, Alex Rioux, Bob Fisher  
Alternates Present: Alan Baker, Jo Yankura, Ann Ottaviano

Jo makes a motion to call the meeting to order. Alex seconds, all in favor.  
Meeting called to order by Bob 6:06pm.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Chosen to pass over at this time

### **Public Participation**

Ann Ottaviano attended as a member of the public.  
Ann recently donated \$500 to TC, TC thanks Ann  
We are considering writing a letter of thanks to Ann, for committee years as well

### **Jake White Memorial**

Michelle's family will discuss what they would like on the plaque  
Plan is to get a price, check with chimney hill, and then go to selectboard to make a request for funds and a resolution.

(Carlotta joined meeting by phone at 6:13)

### **Trail Upgrades**

Discussed agenda from last month's meeting regarding HTW Trail improvements.  
Jo shared her recent conversation with Elia:

- He is busy with other work, but interested. He could give us some references for the work.
- Jason Evans from Dummerstun was referred. He is currently working at Mount Snow.
- Sinuosity was also referred, Jo and Alan checked out their information.
  - We talked about Sinuosity, and that they are able to use the materials around the trail. Bob stated that some issues with that approach are: it borders private property and great river hydro, they may have issues with us taking from and being on their land. Carlotta agrees - she helped build the trail and knows that would be an issue. Second issue is that Sinuosity may be more of a consultant, we may want to go directly to the people doing the work.
- Elia may not be available as frequently as needed for the extent of this job; might be best to go with another contractor.
- Bob discussed getting Zaluzny; they have good excavators. We are looking for folks with small machinery, excavators, and a machine for getting the equipment on the trail. Eilers brothers - Readsboro was also mentioned as an option.
- On bridge issue: we could just do culverts instead of bridges, could be easily managed.

- We have identified at least 3 companies locally, we could walk the trail with all three, and then request proposals.
- We could ask Selectboard to approve fees for these 3 companies.
- Also interested in asking selectboard about their opinion for permitting for the work.

TC discussed the importance of doing the HTW. We need to make a strong case for the public impact of fixing up the HTW. Family use, jogging, bikes - people are trying to do all these things already, we need to build the trail to suit them.

#### Next Steps - HTW

- Bob explained the difference in RFPs and how they work.
- Alan suggested that for the RFP we need to have a clear idea on how to build the RFP. We need to be clear what the scope is and how to articulate it.
- Bob explained RFPs can be “design, permit, and build” or just “design and build”
- Bob’s idea is to ask the selectboard for an analysis of what would permits would be needed
- We plan to move forward and ask selectboard for permission to send out the RFP, which would be open ended, would cover design, permitting, and build. Could offer a walk through to interested contractors. Would also provide scoping study to bidders.
- “Friends of west river trail” may be a good resource to reach out to find out “trail standards”.

**Motion:** to request the select board to issue an RFP for the design, permitting, and construction of the HTW to provide long term sustainability and a raise the trail to “rail trail” standard Julie make a motion, Jo seconds, all in favor.

Discussed agenda from last month’s meeting regarding Beaver Brook Trail improvements:

- Jo reached out to Mike Tuller to ask about property owners, and get permission slips
- Another problem, vegetation is growing up into surpac area.
- Mike could let us know where the buffer zone is so we can maintain the vegetation.
- Jo will follow up with Mike, and then follow up with Jake. We should have him maintain BB better next year
- Big plan for BB would be to loop it back
- Short term - talk to Jake about mowing

#### **Beaver Brook fitness installation**

- Materials are stored at OSEC, Peak is interested in install
- We need to finalize location
- Oak Tree, Beginning of trail, Brandon
- Alex will follow up: finalize location with Brandon, contact peak about set up date, and about price

#### **Other Business**

Trail Spur on West side of town

Trail behind 1a coffee roasters, landowner is putting in a spur to connect to valley trail, want they trail widened so snowmobiles can access the coffee shop, they do go to nidos now, Jo doesn't think we have any role in this, it is the landowner property and we do not need to get involved at this time. TC doesn't see any action we need to take at this time, but we do not discourage landowner plans.

Donations to WTC:

How do we track donations? We would like to track the donations from the community.

We would like more transparency

This is also important for select board requests and grant requests. Need this info.

Alex will follow up with Jessica about donations and how to identify donors. Should be a separate line item for donations.

Next work bee: could meet up with Jake Roberts. No need to plan a specific date for the work bee at this time.

We will move our next meeting to the 8th, we will prioritize getting a presentation ready for selectboard.

Motion made by Julie to conclude meeting, Alex seconds.

Meeting Concluded at 7:35pm.