

Wilmington Trail Committee  
Minutes for September 8, 2021

**Members Present:** Bob Fisher, Chair; Carlotta Gladding (by phone)

**Alternates Present:** Joanne Yankura, Matt Danzico

**Public Present:** Jeff Menges

Absent: Geri Kogut, Vice Chair; Julie Koehler, Recorder; Alex Rioux, Treasurer; Jake Roberts, Alan Baker, Smriti Keshari, Ann Ottaviano

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

Scheduled Agenda:

**1. Approval of Minutes:** deferred until the next meeting to allow more time for members to review the August minutes.

**2. Public Participation:** Jeff Menges attended with interest in joining WTC.

**3. Planning and preparation for Selectboard meeting on 9.21.2021 @ 6pm:**

-Bob met briefly with Scott Tucker and Jessica to schedule date with SB and discuss desired improvements to HT&W trail.

-Joanne reported back on information obtained from Mike Tuller, WZA and John Broker-Cambell, VT DEC Watershed Mgmt. Division, regarding completing Beaver Brook trail with fabric and gravel. At the very least, a conditional use permit would be required from the Town of Wilmington/Development Review Board, easements may need to be obtained from affected landowners, and John encouraged checking with Act 250 District Coordinator to see if the trail crosses any parcels under Act 250 jurisdiction. Matt mentioned observing 3 barking dogs in a pen that now exists where BB meets route 9 East. All agreed that looping BB trail back around, rather than leading out to Route 9, was a more desirable route overall.

-the plan is to present data and other information to the SB and gain their support and approval to commit 1% funds toward issuing an RFP for upgrading the HT&W trail. - The upgrading goal is to create a trail surface that is reasonably level, sustainable, and more inclusively multipurpose. The purposes of obtaining an RFP first is to provide the SB and WTC with a cost estimate and identify any needed permitting. Since the SB decides permitting, having the RFP up front would allow the permitting to be matched with the outlined RFP—seemingly the more efficient approach from a cost standpoint.

-Applying for grant funding, such as the 2021 fall Recreational Trails Program or 2022 VOREC grant is possible. But community and financial support in advance is sometimes required and often increases the chances of receiving a grant award.

-trail counter data from Jeff Nugent at WRC was discussed and demonstrates a trend in increased trail use post-Covid and especially on surrounding area trails that are multipurpose and more accessible.

-Deerfield Valley News articles in the August 18-25 issue report that groups in Dover and Readsboro have received SB support for trail development initiatives and have applied for state grants. Matt and Jeff discussed the benefits of having a trail like HT&W so proximal to the downtown Wilmington area; that it is perfectly suited to provide a beneficial draw and much desired activity for visitors and locals.

-Joanne shared an excerpt from a letter of support from Kathy Blackadar at the Chamber office.

**Action Items:**

-Carlotta suggested a newspaper article, letter to the editor, or editorial supporting the multiple benefits of community trails and will contact Mike Eldred or Randy Capitani at Deerfield Valley News for raising awareness through a journalistic avenue.

-Matt suggested soliciting more letters of support. Ideas included nearby businesses, the Pettee Library staff, organizations such as Lions and Rotary Clubs, Fairfield Avenue landowners whose property abuts the trail, and Great River Hydro. Carlotta will contact the Valley Roost owner and library staff. Bob will contact Ratu's and the Paige family. Joanne will reach out to Matt Cole, Great River Hydro PR contact, Wings staff Nicki Steel and Shelley Park, and will request Gretchen Havreluk's support at the SB meeting.

-Matt will photograph sections of the HT&W to share with the SB that exemplify trail surfaces meeting our vision and goals vs. sections that would need upgrading due to a range of factors.

-we will continue to share and coalesce information via email over the next week.

-Bob will plan to initiate the presentation but all WTC should attend and can participate.

**4. WTC budget and request for 1% funds:**

-deferred, along with the remaining agenda items until the October meeting.

Next Meeting:

**Thursday, October 14th @ 6 pm, Town Offices**

Motion made to adjourn. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Yankura