

Wilmington Trail Committee
Minutes for November 10, 2021

Members present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Carlotta Gladding, Jeff Menges

Alternates present: Joanne Yankura

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

Scheduled Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: Joanne made a motion to approve the minutes for October 14th, 2021. Carlotta seconded. All approved.

2. Public Participation: None

3. Treasurer's Report: deferred until next meeting

4. Vendor for reprinting trail maps: Joanne presented three estimates obtained from printing businesses. After a discussion, Bob made a motion to select the Deerfield Valley News invoice estimate and spend \$675 from WTC funds to print 2500 maps upon approval of the proposed paper stock.

Action: Joanne will contact Randy Capitani at DVN and request samples of proposed paper stock. Jeff will offer his expertise in examining the samples and making a final choice.

5. HT&W status report: Bob explained the relationship between Great River Hydro land where the HT&W is located and the role of the Vermont Land Trust in managing the land as outlined in a conservation easement. The VLT forester assigned to promote and protect the easement specifications is Pieter van Loon. It was decided at last month's meeting that scheduling a walk on the HT&W with Pieter would be important in order to inform him about the upgrade goals, examine problem areas together, and discuss any concerns or questions that might be raised.

Action: Bob will email Pieter van Loon to schedule a walk on the HT&W and include a link to the photo gallery that Matt created in the fall, exemplifying the various problem areas along the trail. Bob will follow up with Scott Tucker regarding efforts to contact GRH in order to discuss the upcoming licensing renewal and address the material allowances as described in the Licensee agreement that might impact the desired trail work. Bob will contact Gretchen regarding the RFP status, review the need for any additional edits, and sign off on a final draft before issuance.

6. FYI budget request for Selectboard: Bob explained that a FY23 budget request must be completed at the December meeting. A discussion ensued regarding asking the Selectboard to put in a line item for trails vs. awarding 1% funds. Past funding has come from a line item in the budget and the consensus was to continue with that format.

Action: Bob will contact Alex Rioux to discuss last year's budget, actual expenses, and anticipated future expenses in order to create a 2023 WTC funding request. The request will be voted on by the WTC and then presented to the Selectboard.

7. Valley Trail reroute on Leinonen property: Carlotta and Joanne gave a report on a site meeting with Sheldon Brassor that included methods offered to improve the trail path crossing the culverts on either side of the solar panel access drive, and a similar solution to help drain a separate, deep culvert located along the rerouted path. Of primary concern is the steep embankment on the reroute that would be unsuitable for snowmobiles. To date, the Stump Jumpers have not been included in planning the trail reroute.

Action: Carlotta will contact Gene Clark from the snowmobile club who resides in Chimney Hill and explain the landowner's wish to reroute the trail. Once contact has been established, Bob will try to set up a time for the landowner, Bob, and Gene Clark to get together at the trail bypass site.

8. Installation of fitness stations: deferred until December meeting.

9. Native Fish Coalition: Joanne read a letter from David Wein, Board member of NFC, that was emailed to Scott Tucker and the WTC regarding a proposed native brook trout sign and educational initiative. A draft photo of the proposed NFC sign was viewed and the two streams thought to be in the WTC network were identified: Beaver Brook and Binney Brook (the latter relates to a Chimney Hill trail). After a discussion, all agreed to support the sign initiative with the stipulation that the NFC sign to be posted near Beaver Brook at the White's Road Primitive Trail trailhead be added to the existing post in order to reduce maintenance and minimize environmental impact.

Action: Joanne will email a WTC response to David Wein extending our support along with the requested sign posting stipulation.

10. Jock Harvey and discussion of of presentation on invasive species and Emerald Ash Borer: A possible future presentation by Jock Harvey, a Society of American Forester member, was discussed as well as an educational sign he proposed regarding invasive species and/or Emerald Ash Borer to be posted along some WTC trails. Concerns were raised regarding the sign initiative relative to the committee's charge. Members wanted more information about the sign details such as size, appearance, and the information to be included.

Action: Bob will contact Jock Harvey and request a picture or sketch of the proposed sign.

11. Soliciting WTC trail mowing contract bid requests for 2022: discussion resumed from the November meeting regarding the desire to solicit additional mowing bids. While not required, as the expense is < \$10K threshold, publicizing the opportunity improves the overall optics, enhances public awareness, and may provide WTC with other contractor candidates to consider. Potential contractor names were mentioned along with places to publicize bid notices, such as DVN and the Town website, and how much detail to include in the request.

Action: Joanne will ask Alan to create a google drive document with a web link that lists all of the WTC trails requiring mowing and brush clearing, including the typical frequency required for each location. Interested contractors could then use the web link to gain a full understanding of the services required and provide an appropriate estimate. A final plan will be determined at the December meeting.

Old business:

1. Joanne updated the status of WTC's planned plaque to honor Jake White and described the specifics thus far decided by the White family. The idea of planning a WTC National Trails Day hike in 2022 at Haystack Mountain trail on Saturday June 4th to honor Jake and, hopefully at that time, announce the planned plaque was proposed by Joanne and accepted.

Motion made to adjourn. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Next meeting:

December 9th @ 6 pm, Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Yankura