

Wilmington Trail Committee
Minutes for August 11, 2022

Members present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Jeff Menges (remote attendance)

Alternates present: Joanne Yankura, Alan Baker

Absent: Geri Kogut, Vice Chair; Matt Danzico, Julie Koehler, Recorder; Alex Rioux, Treasurer; Jake Roberts, Kit Cincotta

Public: Scott Tucker, Wilmington Town Manager

Other: Doug Gerber, Weston & Sampson (remote attendance)

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Bob Fisher.

Scheduled Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: Alan made a motion to approve the minutes for July 14, 2022 with two corrections: the spelling of Shearer and the work bee month to July 28. Bob seconded. All in favor.

2. Treasurer's report: deferred to next month

3. Public participation: None

4. Review W&S report with Doug Gerber and discuss next steps: WTC voiced concerns about the project cost estimates and asked to explore ways to trim costs. Doug explained the technical methodology used to calculate the costs. Ideas proposed included cutting out expensive switchback section, phasing the work over three years +/- paired with a staging schedule based on priority sections identified, and inviting DPW or a general contractor to help verify cost numbers. Alan proposed dividing the trail into three distinct trail sections, prioritizing the middle section (which would begin at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and extend east to where the trail rejoins the former rail bed), and calculating the costs for each trail section. Doug offered to walk the trail with WTC on September 1st in order to review the trail remediation details on site and agreed to stratify cost estimates for the three trail sections as described and send them to WTC in advance of the 9/1 meeting. Scott described several resources that, in combination, could be tapped to cover the trail upgrade budget including grant money, in-kind work, volunteer contributions, consulting with Marshall Dix in the Highway Department, and lastly, approaching the Selectboard.

Actions: Doug Gerber and Bob will set a meet up time to walk HT&W trail on 9/1. Bob will contact Marshall Dix and request his attendance to provide advice and input regarding project costs.

5. Discuss status of Valley Trail re-route: Joanne emailed Jake Roberts on 7/14 and Peak Property mowed the re-route the following afternoon. Temporary signage was posted on that section.

6. Other:

a) Mowing: Bob mentioned receiving reports that some trails have not been mowed. A discussion ensued regarding the discordance in accountability for the mowing work. The current billing system does not allow WTC to track and/or verify that trails are being mowed. Scott suggested opening up a dialogue between WTC, Peak Property, and Jessica to identify a workable solution.

b) Work Bee: A follow up work bee is scheduled for August 25th at 5 pm at the Valley Trail to post permanent signage at the re-route and finish the Valley Trail section started on 7/28 which was curtailed due to rain.

Action: Joanne will contact the Leinonen's to ask for permission to park in their driveway in order to access the re-route area, and send an email to WTC with a final meeting location and work bee details.

c) Lisle Hill Trail: Alan mentioned walking Lisle Hill trail and discovered that the logging road was left in a rugged condition that is not conducive to hiking and that precludes mowing maintenance. There are 5 deep water bars and much of the path surface is bare, uneven dirt. Joanne had sent a text to Steve Hardy, the logging forester, just this morning expressing concerns about the current trail conditions but there was no reply yet.

Action: Joanne will contact Steve Hardy with a follow up phone call to ask about any planned trail restoration.

d) Maps: Alan read an email from the Hermitage Inn requesting WTC to deliver trail maps. After some discussion, it was decided that merchants requesting a supply of maps should be directed to pick them up at the Chamber of Commerce office. Joanne reported that the Chamber has depleted the box of just over 800 maps delivered to them in early March. The recurrent cost to cover map printing is a concern. Pros and cons of using ads on the map as a self-sustaining approach were discussed. Alan suggested exploring other entities that might support the cost of maps, including the town, vs. factoring the expense into the annual WTC budget.

Action: Alan will email Hermitage Inn with instructions for obtaining trail maps. Further discussion was suggested regarding the future funding of the trail map printing.

Motion made by Joanne to adjourn. Seconded by Alan. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Next meeting:
September 8th @ 6 pm, Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Yankura