

Wilmington Trail Committee
Minutes for June 8, 2023

Members present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Joanne Yankura, Jeff Menges

Alternates present: Alan Baker

Absent: Julie Koehler, Recorder & Treasurer; Matt Danzico

Meeting called to order at 6 pm by Bob Fisher

Scheduled Agenda:

1. Public comments: John Mosher and Melanie Winters introduced themselves and explained that John is working toward earning his Eagle Scout rank which requires completing a project that will be beneficial to the community, such as a refurbishment or construction project. A few proposed ideas included a trail kiosk, bench, or picnic table. WTC requested time to discuss the proposed options and present specific ideas at the July 13th meeting. After some discussion, members thought benches along the trails would be the most useful and beneficial.

Action: Members are tasked with bringing suggestions to the July meeting of specific locations on one or more trails where a bench would be well sited. John and Melanie will attend the July 13th WTC meeting for feedback and further discussion.

2. Approval of May 11th Minutes: not available for review

3. Financial Report: not available

4. W&S permitting information & update: Regarding permits, Bob or Doug Gerber need to contact Jessica Roberts in Zoning to inquire about eligibility for a flood plain waiver. Jeff Nugent contacted VTrans and VOREC staff and asked which grants require an ARA permit (Archeological Resource Assessment). Email replies from the grant specialist, Lauren Honican, indicated that an ARA is required for Recreational Trails Program grants (which are federally funded and state -administered) but not for VOREC (VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative) grants which are state funded. Bob thought an ARA was required for power company re-licensing and suggested contacting Matt Cole at Hydro Quebec to inquire about an ARA document in their possession that could be used for trail grant application purposes. A breakdown of permitting, scope of services, and cost of all permits is needed from W&S by the July meeting. A timeline for submitting applications in order to be shovel ready by September/October so that the project can be put out to bid in November/December should be included.

Action: Bob will speak with Jessica Roberts re: flood plain waiver. Joanne will: email Doug regarding items and specific information requested for next month's meeting, contact Matt Cole at Hydro Quebec about an existing ARA, request a copy of the VOREC application for WTC to review, and ask to be added to the VOREC email list so WTC will know when the grant round in progress is launched.

5. Haystack Mt. Jake White Memorial dedication date: Powder coating the panel frame will take one month and installation will likely not occur until mid-July. After discussion, the month of September was selected for the dedication ceremony. Reasons included cooler weather and avoiding conflicts with vacation plans that would preclude summer attendance.

Action: Joanne will contact the White family to discuss WTC's decision and request dates in September when the whole family will be available to attend.

6. Work Bee: Bob itemized remaining clearing work in need of completion on the HT&W proposed new section.

Action: A work bee is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd at 4:30 pm to complete the proposed new trail section clearing. Meet up at the shallow turn out located just before the bus/plow turnaround on Fairview Avenue. Friends of the Trails are invited.

7. Trail maintenance needs/current issues: 1) Jeremy White discovered a new driveway being excavated behind 1A Roasters that crosses the Valley Trail and asked that we contact the owner or excavating company to smooth out the affected area. Joanne shared owner name and contact information obtained from the Town Clerk. 2) Jeremy also informally mentioned a few other concerns on the Valley Trail; Joanne requested he submit the list to WTC for addition to the agenda. 3) Joanne mentioned that the Primitive and Lisle Hill trailheads on White's Road are not on the mowing contract list and need weed whacking. 4) Dog leashing on HT&W trail: Joanne initiated a discussion regarding lack of signage on HT&W regarding dog leashing and recalled an abutting landowner complaint about unleashed dogs wandering on private property. Common trail etiquette with dogs, personal experiences, and opinions were shared and discussed.

Action: Bob will contact the land owner regarding the excavating project impacting the Valley Trail and obtain updated owner permission. All agreed to ask Jeremy to clean the trailheads at the contract hourly rate; Joanne will send an email requesting the additional work.

8. Recruiting new members: Ideas proposed included a FaceBook page, informational announcement in the Deerfield Valley News, and community networking. Alan confirmed that WTC has a FaceBook page though Jeff noted that the last post was fairly old. Alan and Bob explained that the page is set up with a "one-way" posting ability so that WTC will not inadvertently conduct business on the social media app and potentially violate the Town meeting rules. Jeff will research dog leashing/clean up signage related to hiking trails and present findings along with some ideas at the next meeting.

Action: Jeff will contact DVN and compose an announcement aimed at recruiting new members. Jeff offered to occasionally post some trail photos to the WTC FaceBook page. Alan will speak with a WTC Friend of the Trails member, Carol Boyce, who attended last month's work bee about becoming a permanent member. Joanne will ask James Walker about a members of the CHOA community who might be interested. Jeff offered to create a recruitment/informational flyer that could be distributed at the CHOA clubhouse and other key locations around town. Bob suggested using a newspaper article of a future trail happening as an opportunity to advertise WTC openings and draw new membership.

Motion made to adjourn by Bob. Jeff seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Next Meeting:

July 13th@ 6 pm, Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Yankura