

Wilmington Trail Committee
Minutes for December 14, 2023

Members Present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Joanne Yankura, Jeff Menges, Carol Bois

Alternates Present: Alan Baker, Matt Danzico

Absent: Julie Koehler

Public Present: John Mosher, Melanie Winters, Elynn Lebron

Meeting Call to Order by Bob Fisher @ 6:21

Scheduled Agenda:

1. **Public Participation:** John Mosher reported that the two benches are completed and a public unveiling is scheduled for Saturday, December 30th at 11 am. The benches will be placed at the Wilmington Trail kiosk at the far side of Reardon's Crossing Bridge. The public and project sponsors will be invited to attend. Elynn Lebron introduced herself and explained that after learning about volunteer opportunities she wanted to attend a WTC meeting to learn more. Alan added Elynn's name to the "Friends of WT" email list.
2. **Minutes:** Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/9/23. Joanne seconded. All in favor.
3. **Financial Report:** deferred
4. **Sign design and content; leash law:** Jeff reported prices for reordering "Respect Land Owner" signs from Voss at \$2.85/unit up to 50 count. After discussion, Joanne made a motion to order 30 signs. Jeff seconded. All in favor. Jeff exhibited two sign designs to consider that would consolidate and standardize the "trail rules" posted at access and trailhead points. After some discussion, Jeff proposed emailing the design samples to members and asked for feedback with comments and any suggested modifications.
5. **Trail mowing contract and developing a map:** Joanne reported that Jeff Nugent could create a map that would document the trail sections needing mowing and other regular maintenance but that the process would require time and several steps. Bob asked if Jeff could, as a first step, use the current trail map as a template for documenting mowing sections. Carol suggested asking Jeff to use a topographic overlay as well so that contractors will be able to identify various elevation conditions. Joanne offered to ask Jeff and also request Jeremy White's input on the map.
6. **Trail work and bridge repairs:** Needed repairs to the HT&W and Primitive trail bridges is deferred until spring. Joanne mentioned reports of a large tree leaning across the

Primitive Trail and a sign post broken at the Chimney Hill tennis courts. Bob will try to remove the tree on Primitive Trail; Jeff offered to keep an eye on the weather and a string of mild days in order to work on replacing Chimney Hill post .

- 7. HT&W project grant and updates:** Joanne reported that the “Redevelop the HT&W Trail for broader accessibility” VOREC community grant application was submitted on 12/12/23. An update was given on changes made to the project plan and budget, and the current status of environmental permitting. All five private landowners signed permission forms; one landowner reported parking problems at the Mill Street trailhead. Bob Fisher is working with the landowner on improving signage to help mitigate the problem. Scott Tucker informed Bob Fisher that Wilmington Fund does not want their money used for permitting fees. Carol offered to work with Bob, W&S and Arrowwood Environmental in moving the permitting process forward and also offered to speak with W&S about receiving regular invoice statements. The next step of developing an RFP was discussed regarding whether W&S or WTC would perform that task. After more discussion, Bob will contact Doug Gerber to discuss W&S developing the project RFP, understand the current balance remaining for permitting, and ask about the next step in finalizing the draft ARA report.

Other business:

Matt raised the idea of sending thank you letters to landowners as a show of appreciation. Bob suggested inviting landowners to join in a hike on National Trail Day in June.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Yankura