

Wilmington Trail Committee  
Minutes for April 11, 2024

Members present: Bob Fisher, Chair; Joanne Yankura, Jeff Menges, Carol Bois,  
Alternates present: Alan Baker, Matt Danzico  
Absent: Julie Koehler

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

Scheduled Agenda:

1. Changes to the agenda: Southern Vermont Wildlife Festival and Green Up Day to be added and discussed before HT&W updates.
2. Committee reorganization: After some discussion, the same slate of officers was nominated to serve for a one year term and the decision made to continue meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm in the Town Hall Offices meeting room. A unanimous vote followed with all in favor.
3. Public Comment: none
4. Approval of minutes from 3/14/24: Joanne made a motion to accept the minutes from 3/14/24. Jeff seconded. All in favor.
5. Southern Vermont Wildlife Festival: At the last meeting, all agreed that WTC would like to participate in the festival to be held on Sunday, September 22 from 10am - 4 pm at Mt. Snow Resort. Jeff spoke with Michael Clough and conveyed WTC's interest in staffing an informational table and having trail maps available for distribution. The event organizers sent a follow up email asking for a confirmation and more details.  
**Action:** Jeff will reply to the SV Natural History Museum Board Secretary to confirm WTC's intended participation and provide additional details.
6. Green Up Day: This year's date falls on Saturday, May 4th. Joanne suggested using the opportunity to clean up some of the trails. Bob recommended focusing on trails and trail sections close to the downtown that receive the most traffic: Monument, Beaver Brook and HT&W. Alan suggested sending an announcement and invitation to Friends of the Trail to recruit additional helpful involvement.  
**Action:** Joanne will send an email to Friends of the Trails with a request to consider participating in Green Up Day by tidying up one of the downtown trails or, if preferred, another Town trail. Jeff will post a copy of the email text on the WTC Facebook page.
7. HT&W updates:
  - A site visit took place on 3/28 with Doug Gerber and Elijah from W&S, Matt Cole from GRH and WTC members to identify an alternate route to the switchback trail. After inspecting the existing steep trail traversing the ASA 1 area, Doug proposed a navigable design and later sent a schematic drawing for WTC to review.
  - Hartgen is still finalizing the ARA for submission to VDHP for guidance on required archeological testing and permitting in the ASA 1 area. Joanne mentioned asking VDHP if the draft ARA and Doug's schematic map would be sufficient to make a determination about any required soil sampling and permitting. All agreed to researching that route. Bob pointed

out that work on that trail section could be performed later on in the project, allowing for more time to complete any required testing and associated permit, if needed.

**Action:** Joanne will contact VDHP and inquire about sending the draft ARA and map.

- Gretchen and Joanne attended a remote meeting with VOREC grant manager Lauren Pyles on 4/3 to review the project status. An updated grant budget must be received by 4/17 and updated maps/designs must be received by 4/26 in order to sign a grant agreement by 5/1. Doug indicated that W&S is working toward meeting those deadlines.
  - Gretchen met with Scott Tucker on 4/10 and discussed earmarking the Wilmington Fund donated money toward construction of the parking area. The only restriction placed on utilization of the funds is for permitting costs. All other expenses are eligible. Gretchen will be contacting Marshall to obtain an estimate on labor cost for the parking lot work.
  - Joanne reported learning that the DRB Zoning application and supporting documents submitted to the VT Floodplains Manager on 8/11/23 and that, assumedly, received “no comment” after 30 days can’t be located by the current Floodplain Manager, Ned Swanberg. After resubmitting the documents, Mr. Swanberg requested information regarding the amount and location of the planned gravel fill. Bob suggested having Doug create a topographical overlay onto the project map and also indicate where the fill will be placed.  
**Action:** Joanne will contact Doug and request the maps that Bob suggested and forward them to Ned Swanberg.
  - Cost estimates for a vegetative screen/barrier were not included in the original VOREC budget. Gretchen provided Joanne with an arborist to contact for an estimate. Joanne has an appointment on 4/12 at 4 pm with Adam Buursma, owner of Arboreal Habitats to walk the trail section and discuss options. Interested members are welcome.  
**Action:** Joanne will obtain estimates to include in the updated VOREC budget.
8. **Trailhead and other signs:** Jeff reported having received the new shipment of “Respect Landowner” signs that include a predrilled hole for nailing. The signs are located on the WTC supply shelf along with a VOSS catalog for future reference. Jeff distributed a printed final draft of the new trailhead sign and solicited additional comments to incorporate into the design. Jeff reviewed three size options and price points with a 50 count minimum: 11.5 X 7.25 (\$267), 12 X 9 (\$392), 14 X 9.25 (\$420). After some discussion, Bob made a motion to accept and order the largest size. Joanne seconded. All in favor.  
**Action:** Jeff will complete final trailhead sign revisions, send the final draft to WTC for review, and arrange for an order placement with Jessica.
9. **National Trail Day:** No feedback from Julie was available regarding a possible collaboration with Wilmington Works for a National Trail Day Event on Saturday, June 1st. Discussion focused on advertising the final plan via DVN, the WTC website, and Town e-newsletter.  
**Action:** Joanne will contact Julie and ask her to bring feedback to WTC in May about her discussion with Melanie Lopez, WW chair, regarding ideas for National Trail Day celebration.
10. **Work Bee plans:** Three repairs were discussed and prioritized: HT&W trail bridge, Haystack Road kiosk and Primitive Trail bridge. After some discussion, a work bee was scheduled for April 25th at 5 pm at the Mill Street trailhead to test use of a hydraulic jack to lift the bridge, determine a plan, and compile a materials list for the final repair work. Joanne reported receiving approval from James Walker to reset the kiosk posts in cement. CHOA first needs to

identify and mark a water line in that area. A cost estimate for repairing the kiosk will be obtained from Travis Wendall as a possible option to consider and assistance from the Town road crew will be explored for lifting the repaired kiosk and resetting it in cement. The Primitive trail bridge repair will be addressed once the landowners return to Wilmington for the summer.

**Action:** A work bee is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th @ 5 pm with meet up at the Mill Street trailhead. **Bob** will bring one or two hydraulic jacks and other tools needed to test lifting the bridge. A repair plan will be devised and materials list completed. **Jeff** will contact Travis Wendall and request a cost estimate on repairing the Haystack Road kiosk.

The meeting concluded at 7:35 pm.

Next Meeting:  
May 9th @ 6 pm, Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Yankura