

Wilmington Trail Committee
Minutes for Thursday, May 9, 2024

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

Alternates present: Alan Baker, Matt Danzico

Member Absent: Julie Koehler

Bob Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

- 1) Changes to the agenda – none; discussion on need for a Clerk – must be regular member not alternate
- 2) Public comments – none
- 3) Approval of Minutes of April 2024 meeting – Joanne motioned to approve, Carol seconded; motion passed unanimously
- 4) Financial report – none available, Julie not present
- 5) HT&W project updates and VOREC grant – discussion provided by Joanne and Carol regarding updates on the VOREC grant and project.
 - Due to current funding constraints, Segments 1, 3B, and 7 will be eliminated from bidding (or as additive alternate for Segment 1); Segment 3B and 7 will be implemented by Town Highway.
 - VOREC is working on the grant agreement and hoping for a June 1 signing pending the draft being received by the Town.
 - The ARA report was sent off to Vermont Division of Historic Preservation (VDHP) and Great River Hydro, further conversations are needed to determine level of effort and/or permit needed.
 - Paperwork was submitted to the state to change the classification of Hoot, Toot from a class four road to a trail for the purposes of our grant agreement.
 - Carol asked about the “front end” of documents needed for the construction bid documents; Weston & Sampson Engineers are preparing the construction plans and specs, but has not been contracted to do the up front portion of the bid documents. Bob recommended using the VLCT contract documents for contractual issues; Carol should call Scott Tucker to find out who at the Town can pull together the front end bid information.
 - It was noted the Selectboard only has one meeting in July (Tuesday July 16); if possible we should target that date to bid award – pending grant agreement and final documents being ready for bid in the next few weeks.
 - Tentative Bid Walk dates were set for Monday June 10 and Monday June 17, again, pending the bid going out in early June.

- 6) National Trails Day ideas – several ideas were discussed.
- Information from Mike DeBonis (Executive Director of Green Mountain Club – Carol had contacted him via email) noted they would forward our question about local hikes for this event to their Bennington and Brattleboro sections.
 - The committee decided on an easy family-friendly walk starting at 9:30 or 10:00 am on Saturday June 1. Start location Wahoo's (pending discussion with Adam Grinold about parking in the area) and then walk north side of Main Street to the Lisle Hill. This would be an easy loop to do.
 - Joanne will contact Adam to discuss event; Bob F. will find out if baseball is still active that weekend– maybe push the time to 10 am if so.
 - Advertising is needed for this: Deerfield Valley news; Chamber of Commerce; Town weekly email; Jeff – Facebook possibly, also Jeremy on facebook; instagram posting also once time is confirmed.
 - Some discussion if local restaurants might donate a coupon similar to what was done for Greenup Day (A1 Coffee and Valley Craft Ale/pizza).
- 7) Signs update – none; will update at June meeting.
- 8) Prioritize trail work and schedule next work bee – Discussion on the bridge at Hoot Toot & Whistle trail that needs to be further repaired/stabilized since last work bee. Joanne will contact Rodney Bemis and get a measurement of the bridge length to determine length of telephone poles to be used. Date for work bee, if equipment etc. can be secured is Thursday May 23, 4:30 pm at this HTW bridge.
- 9) New Business –
- Carol provided update on Instagram, she has access to this now thanks to Matt. We can post information and photos relevant to the Trail Committee as needed.
 - Alan Baker noted the VAST has worked on the Raponda trail; the Ware-Hogback connector has an area with a protective cable (to prevent ATVs going on property owner's land) where both ends appear to have been intentionally cut.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded; meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.