

Wilmington Trail Committee  
Minutes for September 12, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Bob Fisher

Scheduled Agenda:

1. Changes to the agenda: 1) Wilmington Works metal hiker art donation and 2) Vermont Wildlife Festival
2. Public comments: none
3. Approval of August 15th minutes: Alan made a motion to approve the August 15th minutes. Jeff seconded. All in favor.
4. Financial Report: Joanne reviewed a spreadsheet obtained from Jessica DeFrancesco with most recent debits and balances for 1% allocations to WTC, HT&W permitting, and for the HT&W VOREC grant award. After a brief discussion, Alan made a motion to accept the financial report. Jeff seconded. All in favor.
5. HT&W project updates: Joanne reviewed project details still in progress including obtaining a wetlands permit, a final comment from VDHP, and the Town signing a construction contract with Saladino Property Maintenance. Reclassifying former Highway #59 to a trail is on hold pending the State's final traffic reroute plans when replacing the bridge in Town. More project funding opportunities are being researched. The HT&W project fits an upcoming FPR grant with a \$50K maximum award and a 20% match requirement. An application will be submitted to Vermont Community Foundation in search of matching fund donors for the grant application and for potential, additional project funding.
6. Chimney Hill Kiosk: kiosk repair and re-installation in cement before winter is needed.  
**Action:** Jeff will contact Travis Wendall regarding timeline for repairing the kiosk.
7. Status of trailhead sign order: Jeff has been working with VOSS signs to fine tune various sign details. Kathy at VOSS stated that the original price quote is still good.  
**Action:** Jeff will continue working on finalizing the trailhead sign design with VOSS and proceed with final ordering.
8. Wilmington Works Steel Hiker Art Piece: Wilmington Works will donate the metal hiker sculpture left over from the Beaver Street Art Project to the Town. The donation requires WTC to post and exhibit the sculpture at a Wilmington trail. A discussion included possible trail locations and periodically moving the artwork to different trail locations. A decision was made to hold off on choosing a specific installation location and plan until more details are known such as weight and size. Alan made a motion to accept the metal hiker sculpture donation from Wilmington Works. Jeff seconded. All in favor.  
**Action:** Bob, Jeff and other members will drop by Chapman's to assess hiker size and weight and report back for further discussion and decision about installation location(s).

9. Vermont Wildlife Festival: WTC committed to setting up a table at the Vermont Wildlife Festival on September 24th, 10-4 at Mt. Snow Resort. The event is sponsored by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum and an opportunity to raise awareness about WTC trails and the WTC's volunteer work. Staffing the event was discussed. Alan suggested inviting Friends of the Wilmington trails to help out. Ideas for the table set up and handouts were decided.  
**Action:** Jeff will organize staffing for the event and make an enlarged print of the WTC logo for the table. Maps for distribution will be obtained from the Chamber supply. Joanne will bring a trifold display that exhibits WTC information and photos.
10. **Trail work:** A list provided by Jeremy White with 12 trail problem items that need addressing was discussed. Repairing the boardwalk was given the highest priority. Members offered to address some items right away; others required further information before making a plan. Bob reminded all of the approaching hunting season with regard to trail work safety.  
**Actions:** 1) Jeff, Alan and Jo will repair the boardwalk ASAP. 2) Bob and family will clear the downed trees on Shearer Hill trail 3) Joanne will ask Marshall Dix if the Town roadside mower can clear the invasive Knotweed growth once or twice annually along Beaver Brook and also inquire about the allowed setback limit along the riverbank. 4) Jeff will take a look at Valley Trail to identify the rock that needs moving and examine the snowmobile bridges.
11. **Work bee:** Scheduled on **Thursday, October 3rd at 3:30 pm** to address additional work on the Valley Trail. Bob is still trying to contact the Schitt's Creek owner for landowner permission. An exact meet up location and final work plan will be announced by email.

The meeting concluded at 7:09 pm.

Next Meeting:  
October 10th at the Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Yankura