

Wilmington Trail Committee
Thursday, February 12, 2026 - 5:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Members present: Carol Bois, Elynn Lebron, Joanne Yankura, and Jeff Menges

Absent: Alan Baker and Bob Fisher

Others present: Jessica Lee Smith

Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm

1. **Changes to the agenda:** Move up Great River Hydro Donation to first item
2. **Great River Hydro (GRH) Donation:** Katelyn Krumperman joined GRH 6 weeks ago and started out her relationship with WTC with great news that GRH is donating \$10,000 to the HT&W redevelopment project. Discussed ideas on how to announce this generosity: Ribbon cutting at HT&W Trail during Memorial Day Weekend, Press Release, Local paper and newsletters, Plaque to commemorate. Katelyn will be in town Tuesday April 7th around 1:30 and would like to check out the HT&W trail with us which she has not seen without all the snow. There are discussions at Great River Hydro about their social media planning that we maybe able to leverage.
3. **Public Comments:** Jessica Lee Smith joined the zoom to listen in.
4. **Approve minutes** from 1/8/2026 – Joanne made a motion to approve, Carol seconded, all in favor. *Realized post meeting need to correct the year to 2026*
5. **Mowing Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2026:** Mowing RFP is out for bid, hope to have bids to vote on at our next meeting. RFP submission deadline is February 25th. Joanne made some adjustments to the mowing map that should reduce costs a little.
6. **Eagle Scout Project Update** - Daltyn Hurley was unable to attend, planning to join next month's meeting.
7. **Financial Report:** No expenses since last meeting. Need to submit a 1% Fund request for WTC's 2026-2027 budget in time for the March 17th Selectboard meeting. Total 1% amount requested and approved last year was \$15K. (break down: Fundraising/advertising/events (printing, mailings, ads, etc.) \$3K, Signs/Maps, printing, reprint; materials (\$3K) and Mowing/Trail Maintenance \$9K. Jeff made a motion to increase the total 1% fund request from \$15K to \$17K so we can increase our fundraising and promotional budget by \$2K. Have \$3,962.35 remaining from the 1% fund to spend by June 30th. Motion seconded by Carol and passed unanimously.
8. **Hoot, Toot & Whistle (HTW) update:** Gretchen Havreluk reported fences down and also an oil spill reported near/on the HTW trail to Carol on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026. Carol and Jeff went out to repair the signs/fencing at "closed" section of the HTW trail that day (below the former staging area/parking area). Jeff and Carol snowshoed on the trail further west of the closed area and below/north of the boat storage property at 203 Fairview Avenue. They both smelled oil and observed reddish/pink-stained snow along both sides of the trail after poking their snow poles through the snow. Gretchen had contacted Chief Moore earlier in the week after a trail user

snowshoeing the trail reported it to her. The VT DEC (James Donaldson, Spill Program Manager) was made aware of the spill, which also was observed by the Chief and Gretchen on the 203 Fairview Avenue property uphill from the HTW trail. VT DEC staff requested that the property owner place spill pads in the area of the spill who provided photos to them. DEC will follow up with this after conditions improve - the following weekend a significant snowstorm came which prevented further observations and actions.

9. **HT&W Fundraising Efforts:** Jeff made a motion to use the remaining 1% funds for fundraising efforts including a mailing of the remaining postcards to second home owners and advertising. Carol seconded. All in favor. Carol noted the Rotary was told there are grant options through them (possibly up to \$2,500); also noted her contact with CJ Mauro of the Hermitage. Carol suggested she contact Hermitage through CJ and see if they might want to donate to the HTW efforts.

10. **Work Bee plans/priorities** – The culvert at Raponda Ridge right by the road/sign reported by trail user Spence Crispe has collapsed. You can walk around because of the snow and ice right now, but the landowner will need to replace in the spring. Some kind of temporary stakes and signage are needed to warn folks to stay clear of the area. Carol sent an email to the landowner explaining the culvert condition and need for replacement.

11. **Health & Safety** – nothing new to report

12. New Business:

- Keep eBikes on future agendas as we may want to continue to keep this in mind.
- Volunteer Policy- Scott Tucker drafted a Volunteer Policy to present to the Selectboard. WTC has asked for clarification on the policy requirements in an email to Scott including: how these are to be applied (appointed volunteers such as WTC vs all volunteers for all committees), who determines list of responsibilities, cost for training (whose budget will pay), etc. Questions came up such as how to track this process for waivers if it's determined they are needed, for example, by Friends of Trails or other volunteers. A meeting with Scott Tucker is scheduled on February 25th to discuss Carol and Joanne's comments and list of concerns; may need to adjust request for 1% funding if training is coming out of the WTC budget.
- It's time to renew Vermont Trails & Greenway Council fee of \$50; all agreed we wanted to continue to participate. Joanne will complete this task and sort out with Jessica how payment will work.

13. Action Items:

Bob: Review proposed Volunteer Policy requirements and provide comments if any.

Jeff: Go to Raponda Ridge and put stakes or signage up to direct people around the collapsed culvert

Alan: Add Katelyn from GRH to Friends of Trails email distribution and show Elynn how to do that and maintain the webpages and inbox.

Elynn: Work on mailing for remaining postcards, create request for 1% fund, but wait on submitting for details on Volunteer Policy requirements and who is paying for training.

Elynn & Joanne: Meet with Christine Richter in March to get a better process in place to report offline fundraising efforts going forward and total amount donated to date.

Joanne: Follow up with the Rotary Club to find out process to ask them for donations. Renew Vermont Trails & Greenways membership

Joanne & Carol: Meet with Scott Tucker to discuss questions regarding the Volunteer Policy requirements on 2/25

Carol: Reach out to the Hermitage and ask them directly for a donation

Carol made a motion to adjourn at 6:35. Jeff seconded. All in favor.

Next Meeting: March 12th at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Elynn Lebron