

**Wilmington Trail Committee**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026 - 5:30 PM**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

1. **Changes to the agenda:** None
2. **Public Comments:** None
3. **Approve minutes** from 3/12/2026 – Joanne made a motion to approve, Elynn seconded, all in favor.
4. **Organization of the committee:** Elynn made a motion to elect the current officers, Joanne seconded, all in favor. Agreed to keep the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:30pm, but may have to move a couple of meeting times to keep a quorum in May and June.
5. **Mowing Update:** Confirmed with White Acre Farm that they won the bid; Carol to check with Scott Tucker/Jessica about whether a contract is needed to start.
6. **Financial Report:** Carol and Joanne got approval from the Selectboard on 3/17 for the \$19k from the 1% Fund for the WTC's 2026-2027 budget. Spent approximately \$800 on fundraising mailing, still have around \$3k in this year's budget. Joanne to write up details of how to expense items for the WTC and put it on the google drive.
7. **Hoot, Toot & Whistle (HTW) update: Future Parking Area:** Received the \$10k donation from Great River Hydro the end of March. Using that as well as the donations to date for the new Parking Lot, and remaining VOREC grant money. Marshall Dix (Highway Dept) has staked out Parking area to start work. **Oil spill:** At the request of the VT DEC, committee member Jeff Menges visited the HTW trail on April 6, 2026 with James Donaldson, Program Manager for the Spill Program of VT DEC. James Donaldson sent an updated report to Carol via email; VT DEC will be following up with property owner of 203 Fairview Avenue in order to address oil-impacted soil on the trail. **Wet area of trail:** Joanne found that the source of the extremely wet section of the trail is coming from stormwater/snowmelt runoff into a culvert under Fairview Avenue that discharges to the north and into a recently constructed rip rap area, which then runs down the slope above and into the trail. This is causing a significant muddy area on the trail, which will have to be addressed in the future. Joanne to discuss with Gretchen as to whether Marshall Dix from Highway can do anything about this excessive flow.
8. **Fundraising Update:** Elynn printed labels to do a second mailing with the remaining postcards to the second home owners. Joanne submitted an online grant request to the Rotary club for a donation for the new kiosk. Carol to connect with Josh DeBottis the General Manager at the Hermitage next week to ask if they are interested in providing a donation for the HTW trail. Rails to trails grant application is due May 10<sup>th</sup> for grants

from \$10-25k, may want to ask for grant funds to address the very wet/muddy part of the trail near the new parking area.

9. **Work Bee plans/priorities** – Two trees are down on the HT&W trail that need clearing. Raponda Ridge issue isn't a culvert failure, it's the work of beavers, so we'll need to reroute the trail soon before too many people make their own paths. Have to go pretty far into the woods to go around the wet area. Carol to discuss with landowner how to reroute the trail. For now the flooded access road is flagged with poles and caution signs to keep hikers safe. Green up day is May 2nd. Advertised a hike on the Primitive Trail Sunday April 26 at 10am in the Raponda Foundation newsletter and to Friends of Trails. Other work bee tasks will wait until spring.
10. **Health & Safety** – Have a \$1k budget for safety training this year, e.g., chainsaw courses; Jeff expressed an interest in taking a course; Joanne to send him the dates for this year.

#### **11. New Business:**

- Need to finalize the plan for the grand reopening of the HT&W trail on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm Memorial Day weekend. Plan a 10 minute ribbon cutting ceremony, opening hike and see if we can get the Rec Commission to plan activities for the kids. Need to talk to the Chamber and Wilmington Works too. Plan to put an ad in the paper and email all the donors an invitation.
- Joanne and Carol discussed mapping with Jeff Nugent and having input into the town plan. Susan Westa associate director of the Windham Regional in Brattleboro to prepare the draft chapter on recreation for review. Public is invited to the Planning Commission meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> for input on the town plan.
- June 10<sup>th</sup> Brattleboro Retreat "Elevating the Outdoor Economy in Southern Vermont" from 2-5 pm. Carol will try to attend for WTC.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 pm Jeff Nugent is speaking about the "Mountains of Windham County" at the VT Museum of Natural History series being held at Vermont Distillers at Hogback.

#### **Action Items:**

**Jeff:** To work on advertisement for the Deerfield Valley Newspaper and online media sites and e-newsletters; Carol to send him content for ad.

**Elynn:** Update email newsletter ads.

**Elynn & Joanne:** Meet with Christine Richter to get a better process in place to report offline fundraising efforts going forward and total amount donated to date. Put stamps and labels on all the postcards and collect all left over postcards from places like the Chamber and Hermitage.

**Joanne and Carol:** Reach out to the Chamber, Wilmington Works, and Rec Commission about the ceremony 5/23

**Carol:** Discuss donation from the Hermitage with Josh DeBottis.

Carol made a motion to adjourn at 6:56pm. Joanne seconded. All in favor.

Next Meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Elynn Lebron