

Wilmington Trail Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 11 at 5:15 pm

Town Hall Meeting Room

Members present: Carol Bois, Elynn Lebron, Bob Fisher, Jeff Menges, Joanne Yankura, Steven Burnley

Public present: none

Meeting called to order at 5:22 pm`

1. **Changes to the agenda:** None
2. **Public Comments:** None
3. **Approve minutes from May 14, 2026:** The 5/14/26 minutes were approved after a motion was made and seconded. All in favor.
4. **Eagle Scout project by Daltyn Hurley:** not in attendance; deferred.
5. **Mowing:** Bob Fisher placed 3 orange flags on Shearer Hill Trail where mowing should stop. Carol will notify Jeremy White. Raponda Ridge beaver pond has been drained. Photos show the access path is intact for hikers and mowing. Carol will ask landowner if they hire a contractor to mow the access path.
6. **Financial Report:** Remaining funds for FY 2025-26 ~\$1000. After Jeff submits receipts for Game of Logging Course and lodging/travel expenses, the balance will be about \$200. Carol suggested using remaining funds to have Cherry Press produce more bags with HT&W imprint for future promotional use and will contact the Cherry Press owner to order the additional bags.
7. **Hoot, Toot & Whistle related updates:**
 - Grand reopening celebration: 5/23 @ 1 pm went well with a favorable turnout. Still need to send a formal thank you to the Rotary for kiosk donation money.
 - Oil Spill: DEC re-visited site and has asked landowner to remove more contaminated soil to help eliminate residual odor that was detected.
 - Muddy, mid-point, closed section: Saladino estimates on three proposed solutions discussed. All options have drawbacks. After discussion, all agreed that 1) the muddy trail sections should be monitored over this season to further assess wet conditions while seeding and vegetation grow in and 2) to

ask Saladino to provide a quote on boardwalk construction in those two locations—which is the most sustainable, long term solution.

- Long-term funding to complete the project: 1) VOREC grant program was only funded with \$200K by the legislature for this grant round compared to over \$5M two years ago. Plans for the next VOREC grant round have not yet been announced 2) Rails to Trails Conservancy grant notification pending; awardees to be announced this fall 3) Elynn addressed and mailed out another round of HT&W project solicitation postcards and letters. HT&W Donorbox fundraising to date ~\$11.6K 4) Carol to follow up speaking with Hermitage GM about possible donation.

8. **Work bee plans/priorities:** no meeting will be held in July; Carol will notify Jessica for public posting. Instead, two work bees are scheduled in July: Thursday, July 16th @ 5 pm and Saturday, July 25th @ 9:30 am. Each member will walk a trail and report work needs identified to Carol by June 30th for uploading to Google Drive work bee spreadsheet. Jeff will organize and announce the July 16th work bee and Elynn will be asked to provide back up support. Joanne will organize and announce the July 25th work bee. Meet up places and work planned on each work bee day will be determined by Carol after reviewing the collected information.

Trail Assignments:

- Primitive Trail: Steve and Carol
 - Beaver Brook: ? Elynn
 - Shearer Hill: Bob and the Fisher Family
 - Lisle Hill: Joanne
 - Carol: Lake Raponda Trails
 - Valley Trail: Bob (Rt. 9 -> Chimney Hill) and Jeff (Chimney Hill -> Forbush Road)
 - Raponda Ridge/ Hogback Connector: Carol
 - HT&W trail: need someone to walk and report on conditions
9. **Health and Safety:** Steve offered to be the WTC safety manager. Jeff is registered to complete the chain safety course Game of Logging this month.
10. **Review Action Items remaining:** deferred until August meeting

11. Update on Town Plan information: Carol described the editing contributions that WTC sent to Tim Dolan for the collaborative Bi-Town hiking flyer and the action items submitted for consideration in Town Plan draft document. Carol will email the list of proposed Town Plan action items to WTC members.

12. Miscellaneous:

- Need members to learn and take on web page updates, google group and gmail monitoring duties currently performed by Alan Baker and Trail Finder edits. Elynn has expressed interest and Joanne can be a back up. Joanne will clarify with Elynn which duties she is able to assume and help arrange meetings to facilitate the proposed transition of duties.
- Outdoor Economy Summit- June 10, 2026 at Brattleboro Retreat. Carol attended and networked with the new recreation director from Dover and other key attendees.
- Hike a Month plans: Carol has organized and publicized a hike for National Trails Day, June 6th on the Hoot, Toot & Whistle Trail with meet up at 10 am. Jeff agreed to organize and publicized a hike on Saturday August 1st. Joanne will ask Elynn if she can be a back-up person for that date.
- Storage Shed: Joanne announced that WTC now has access to one half of the locked, outdoor shed beside the old Firehouse building for storing WTC supplies. The shed needs cleaning and shelves. Contact Carol or Joanne for the lock combination.
- Mountains of Windham County lecture by Jeff Nugent at Vermont Distillery, June 11th @ 6:30 pm.

New Business: none

Joanne made a motion to adjourn; Bob seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm. Next meeting scheduled on August 13th @ 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Yankura

Action Items:

Each member agreed to walk a trail to assess for work bee needs and report back to Carol by June 30th. **See list in minutes above for the trail assignments.

Carol

1. Notify Jeremy that Shearer Hill has been marked with orange flags to identify desired end point for future mowing and discuss updates about Raponda Ridge beaver pond. Ask Raponda Ridge landowner if they have anyone mowing?
2. Contact Cherry Press to discuss using remaining WTC funds to print more HT&W canvas bags
3. Follow up with Hermitage regarding possible donation
4. Ask Jessica to post and warn that the July WTC meeting is cancelled.
5. Upload member-reported work bee tasks for each trail to Google Drive spreadsheet.
6. Assign trail(s) and work to be accomplished for July work bees and tell Jeff and Joanne so they can plan and announce the two planned work bees in July (16 & 25)

Joanne

1. Ask Gretchen to contact Saladino and request a cost estimate on boardwalk construction as a fourth option to consider for remedying the two wet sections.
2. Ask Carol for rough linear measurements of the two sections obtained previously.
3. Organize and publicize 7/25 work bee.
4. Check with Elynn about taking over Alan's three web-related duties and work on scheduling time to facilitate the transition.

5. Ask Elynn if she can “back up” Jeff on 7/16 work bee and 8/1 “hike of the month”.

Jeff

1. Organize and publicize: Work Bee on July 16th and “Hike of the Month” on August 1.