

Wilmington Trail Committee
Thursday, September 10, 2026 - 5:30 PM
Economic Development Office Conference Room

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

Absent: Carol Bois

Others present: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:32pm

1. Changes to the agenda: Discuss Library request to lead a Children's Hike with Library: see if someone on WTC is interested in leading a 1 hour children's hike in October – discuss trees on the trail, animal life that might be present, and any historical significance. Possible trail options: Lisle Hill where town was founded or HT&W
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approve minutes from 8/13/2026: Elynn made a motion to approve, Steven seconded, all in favor.
4. Eagle Scout Project update No updates
5. Mowing: Budget of \$10,000. Expect to only have a balance of \$726.
6. Financial Report
 - July expenses were \$160.61 and we just received a mowing invoice.
7. Hoot, Toot & Whistle (HT&W) update
 - Joe provided new estimate to finish the trail – pricing didn't change, just increased cost of wood by 5%, but left off the \$30k bridge.
 - Discussed putting rail up next to stairs – Joe recommended steel instead of wood as it would be better to hold onto, more durable, and more suitable than fabricating with wood.
 - Need to keep blowing off the stairs and bridges. Jeremy White provided an estimate of \$475 per time. Should do this 3 times a year: once before Columbus Day weekend, once before the first snow fall and once in the spring to prevent wood from decay and rot.
 - Considering going to the Selectboard and ask for another \$2,500 to cover these recommended, but unanticipated, maintenance expenses.
 - One of the bridges in the closed section also has Knotweed on it and a lot of goldenrod that needs to be cut back. Don't want to cut back the Knotweed as this will make it spread.
 - Need to reapply the Linseed oil to the treads on the bridges and stairs
 - DRB permit for the HT&W Project expires 9/29/26. Submitted application for new permit. Waiting for comments from the DEC Floodplain Manager before Town Zoning Administrator can warn the application for a DRB hearing date.
 - Highway 59 – Jeff added signs to highlight this as the more accessible route, just need to add some additional Blue Blaze signs.

8. Workbee priorities – Focus on HT&W Clearing the stairs and apply Linseed Oil Sept 16th at 4pm
9. Health & Safety: No updates
10. Confirmed Action items from July were complete.
11. Update on Town Plan information - final draft is available and includes long-term goals for WTC in document.
12. Trail Mapping: Steve reaching out to Jeff Nugent
13. Miscellaneous
 - Technology - key person for website updating, email monitoring, google groups, etc. has all been transitioned from Alan to Elynn
14. New Business
 - Vermont Museum of Natural History - Wildlife Festival on Sept 20 from 10 am - 4 pm. Jeff can attend the whole time. Alan will be there some of the time too.
 - Signs: Need to finalize plans to recognize Great River Hydro and Rotary Club of Deerfield Valley for their donations and add a Wilmington Trails wood sign for new Kiosk. Jeff is still putting up the new trailhead signs. Discussed continuing to use the original green and white trailhead signs, with trail name and distance, in addition to the new “rules” signs.
 - Landowner Access Agreement Form has been revised and posted to the Google drive. The next step is to obtain updated agreements. Carol contacted a professor at UVM to ask about a potential student project with the goal of creating an updated list of all the private landowners names and home addresses. The project idea was favorably received; Carol will follow up and coordinate the project work with UVM.
 - Fundraising: have supplies for a mailing but need to create a letter to mail. Have \$5k in the budget for this. Other ideas discussed included 1) putting up fundraising signs at the trailheads with QR code 2) creating a “thermometer” or other visual meter to be placed in a prominent location that would bring attention and enthusiasm to the fundraising effort by showing progress toward the funding goal as donations accumulate, and 3) raffling an out of print edition of “The Coming of the Train” via Donorbox for donations of \$100 or more (Joanne would donate the book). Bob may have another copy of the book we could raffle too.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, October 8th.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob at 6:52pm Jeff seconded, all in favor.

Action Items:

Joanne: follow up with Erin for MOOver parking area and plaque estimates from Dover Sign Shop

Joanne and Jeff: Trail signs and dedication plaques

Elynn: Wildlife festival coordination and workbee communications. Reach out to Scott Smyers about Knotweed

Steven: Reach out to Jeff Nugent

Jeff: Get possible dates, times and locations for Children's hike in October and communicate with WTC